For almost a hundred years before *Uncle Tom's Cabin* burst on to the scene in 1852, the American theatre struggled to represent the evils of slavery. Slavery and Sentiment questions how the text, images, and performances presented to American audiences during the antebellum period engaged with the debate over black participation in American society. Heather Nathans blends American history, theatre history, and literary history to question how theatre and performance lifted the “veil of black” on American racism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.