

A Conversation with



CARLA PETERSON

Wednesday
March 7
4:30-6:00pm

McKeldin Library, Room 6137
Special Events Room



Part detective tale, part social and cultural narrative, *Black Gotham* is Carla Peterson's riveting account of her quest to reconstruct the lives of her 19th-century ancestors. As she shares their stories and those of their friends, neighbors, and business associates, she illuminates the greater history of African-American elites in New York City. *Black Gotham* challenges many of the accepted "truths" about African-American history, including the assumption that the phrase "19th-century black Americans" means enslaved people, that "New York state before the Civil War" refers to a place of freedom, and that a black elite did not exist until the 20th century.

