Taste the sweetness of freedom and the bitter struggle for equality through the documents that impacted the lives of an entire race. Freedoms Children, the sequel to the best-selling Lest We Forget, is a stirring collection of photographs and removable documents that bring to life the heart-wrenching, inspiring tale of freedmen and freedwomen during reconstruction and into the twentieth century. The story of a people who refused to be defeated is continued through this three-dimensional, interactive format.

Study an excerpt from a schoolbook used to teach the newly freed how to read.

Hold in your hand a grant giving twenty acres of land to a former slave who had previously owned nothing.

Read a confidential message from a World War I general detailing the lower status to be accorded black soldiers.
My Personal Review:
An interactive book featuring historical photographs & removable documents charting the course of the people of American slavery after the Civil War. This is a solemn book written & composed by an ordained minister & creator of the Black Holocaust Exhibit in Atlanta. In it Velma Maia Thomas refers to slaves & freedpeople as "my people" [which I must surround in quotation marks because I am an immigrant from the other side of the Atlantic.] Freedom's Children has envelopes, slots & pouches out of which the reader can withdraw facsimiles of railroad tickets to Colorado, newspaper clippings about Black Senators & pages from letters & speeches. Other pages are illustrated by sepia tinted photographs of wilderness pioneers, personal advertisements requesting the whereabouts of loved ones & a miniature copy of the Freedman’s Third Reader. Open the flaps to find special sections on college education, historical photographs & information on such luminaries as Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, W.E.B. Du Bois or the Black cowboys' way of life. A beautifully profound book, worthy of repeated readings for its myriad & fascinating details, its enduring determination for peace & a life of equality & its dignified & idiosyncratic presentation & language.

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