



# **A Mysterious Life and Calling: From Slavery to Ministry in South Carolina (Wisconsin Studies in Autobiography)**

*Charlotte S. Riley*

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Preacher, teacher, and postmistress, Charlotte Levy Riley was born into slavery but became a popular evangelist after emancipation. Although several nineteenth-century accounts by black preaching women in the northern states are known, this is the first discovery of such a memoir in the South.

Born in 1839 in Charleston, South Carolina, Riley was taught to read, write, and sew despite laws forbidding black literacy. Raised a Presbyterian, she writes of her conversion at age fourteen to the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church, embracing its ecstatic worship and led by her own spiritual visions. Her memoir is revelatory on many counts, including life in urban Charleston before and after emancipation, her work as a preacher at multiracial revivals, the rise of African American civil servants in the Reconstruction era, and her education and development as a licensed female minister in a patriarchal church.

Crystal J. Lucky, who discovered Riley's forgotten book in the library archives at Wilberforce University in Ohio, provides an introduction and notes on events, society, and religious practice in the antebellum era and during the Civil War and Reconstruction, and places *A Mysterious Life and Calling* in the context of other spiritual autobiographies and slave narratives.

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A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book A Mysterious Life and Calling: From Slavery to Ministry in South Carolina (Wisconsin Studies in Autobiography) it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

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