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Jean Fagan Yellin was born into a radical newspaper family in the Midwest and earned her graduate degrees at the University of Illinois. She is Distinguished Professor Emerita at Pace University. The editor of several classic nineteenth-century American texts, she is best known for publishing the definitive edition of *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, which established Harriet Jacobs as its author and the book as autobiography. In an effort to embed Jacobs in American literature and culture, Professor Yellin has written Jacobs's biography, *Harriet Jacobs: A Life* (2004), and has edited *The Harriet Jacobs Family Papers* (2008). Also the author of *Women and Sisters* and *The Intricate Knot*, she is a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother, and with her husband divides her time between New York City and Sarasota, Florida.