



## Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry

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### **Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry**

From Penguin Books

#### **A multicultural array of poets explore what it is means to be American**

This powerful and moving collection of poems stretches across the boundaries of skin color, language, ethnicity, and religion to give voice to the lives and experiences of ethnic Americans. With extraordinary honesty, dignity, and insight, these poems address common themes of assimilation, communication, and self-perception. In recording everyday life in our many American cultures, they displace the myths and stereotypes that pervade our culture.

*Unsettling America* includes work by:

Amiri Baraka  
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni  
Rita Dove  
Louise Erdich  
Jessica Hagedorn  
Joy Harjo  
Garrett Hongo  
Li-Young Lee  
Pat Mora  
Naomi Shihab Nye  
Marye Percy  
Ishmael Reed  
Alberto Rios  
Ntozake Shange  
Gary Soto  
Lawrence Ferlinghetti  
Nellie Wong  
David Hernandez  
Mary TallMountain

...and many more.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Aptly titled, this substantial anthology provides exposure to poets, emerging and established—Louis Simpson, Rita Dove, Luis Rodriguez—who write directly from the immigrant, ethnic and/or religious experience. The collection gives evidence of inequality and discrimination, and offers eyewitness accounts of the gross inconsistencies and bigotry of America. The poems tap into visceral energies, either born of or becoming a vitalizing anger; they bristle with a recognition of failed expectations. Thoughtful and attentive, the mother/daughter editorial team of the Gillans divides the book into sections concerned with "uprooting," "performing," "naming," "negotiating" and, finally and hopefully, "re-envisioning." The most moving poems concern a loss of home and custom, and the compromises struck in order to make life tolerable in a quietly (and not so quietly) intolerant society. Also distressing is work describing the intense desire of some poets to assimilate—efforts later remembered as humiliating. This collection is a must for anyone seeking an inclusive, unwincing catalogue of the American experience.

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From School Library Journal

YA?Featuring well-and lesser-known American poets from a variety of cultural backgrounds, this volume presents fresh poems that tell the "American stories" of writers such as Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gary Soto, Louise Erdrich, Ethelbert Miller, and Lucille Clifton. Selections are grouped by broad themes: "Uprooting," "Performing," "Naming," "Negotiating," and "Re-Envisioning." The editors deliberately selected works that "...did not create a pluralistic play of voices, or...make a simplistic call for diversity, but...that directly address the instability of American identity and confront the prevalence of cultural conflict and exchange within the United States." It is this focus and the conscious effort to avoid producing yet another supermarket survey of multicultural literature that make the book such a find. Brief biographical information is included.?Gretchen Portwood, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA

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From Library Journal

"Land where my fathers died" begins a poem by Gregory Djanikian in this vibrant, much-needed collection in which the poets all struggle to retell their past, or, as Nellie Wong phrases it, to wonder, "Where is my country/where does it lie?" The last 15 years have seen a flowering of multicultural voices in American poetry, and readers will recognize many of the poets here, including Wong, Joy Harjo, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Lucille Clifton, and Mary Tallmountain. In five sections—uprooting, performing, naming, negotiating, and re-envisioning—the poets speak of their experiences in America: "a place/ where your skin/is your passport," as Yusef Komunyakaa observes. The poets here speak from the heart not only of the injustices they have suffered but also of their visions of a new land: "where all colors blend into one," says Judith Ortiz Cofer, "we will build our cities of light." Not all these poems are finely crafted, but all express voices too long silent. For all collections.

*Doris Lynch, Monroe Cty. P.L., Bloomington, Ind.*

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### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Andrew Martin:**

Now a day those who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How individuals to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Examining a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information mainly this Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry book as this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

**Renee Wood:**

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. The Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

**Daniel Downey:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry can be great book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

**David Rivera:**

Exactly why? Because this Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap that but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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