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A Fire Is Burning It Is In Me: The Life And Writings Of Michiyo Fukaya



Synopsis

Michiyo Fukaya, a Japanese-American lesbian poet and activist, was also a single mother of a mixed-race daughter, living on welfare, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual assault, and a woman of color in an all white environment. This collection portrays her life and that of a concerned lesbian community which was deeply affected by her presence. Edited by L. Shervington and Winner of Best of Small Press.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The life and work of Michiyo Fukaya is passionate, violent and angry. Full of pain, grief and trauma, with moments of tenderness. They slice into my gut like a sharp blade straight to my viscera. She is indeed a woman of depth and tragedy. Refusing to be rendered silent and invisible, she moved from despair to determination. Ever vocal, even in death, Michiyo urges that we consider the price of our silence. I urge you to read her words, the legacy she left behind. --Kitty Tsui, author of *Breathless*

Michiyo's haunting, lyrical voice and the reflections of those who cared for her create a profoundly moving portrait, a testament to her struggle to find freedom in a society that, as a Japanese American lesbian, I see myself and others in Michiyo's life - her words are a revelation to anyone who has been outside and outcast. This book will touch your soul. --Helen Zia

Finally, the admirable work and life of Michiyo Fukaya is documented for the future generations of indomitable women of color who continue to struggle with living lives of emotional integrity and creative conviction. --Mi Ok Song Bruning, M.S.W.

Gwendolyn L. Shervington was born and raised in the South Bronx. She was a multicultural educator in Vermont for many years after graduating from the University of Vermont. She taught ESL in South Korea and Oakland, California before moving back East to be closer to family. Gwen currently takes care of her mother full-time in Vermont.

This was my first time reading Michiyo's work after reading the speech she gave 3rd world gay and lesbian conference in 1979. This book moved me to tears and at times to moments of tenderness. I was struck by the depth and range of her poetic style - at times, she is poignant and soft.. other times incendiary and raging in her desire to be heard and seen as a queer Japanese American lesbian. The book is also interspersed with narratives from colleagues, activists, former lovers, and friends who knew her--all of which give some interesting accounts of her personality, oppressions, and life. Her work is definitely underrated. Would definitely recommend this book to any feminist reader.

I'm still reading this book. It appears to have some good ideas for fiction writing for young people. This book isn't as good for resources as I thought it would be. It's not a book I would purchase again.

I didn't read it, it was for a friend. But I heard it was good.

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