



The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World

Alison Hawthorne Deming, Lauret Savoy (Editor)

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The introduction and 17 essays in The Colors of Nature movingly address the question, What is the earth to people of color? Exploring history, displacement, return, and relationship to place, these writers show that the ways Americans have impacted nature are inseparable from racism and inequities in economic and political power. Featured contributors include Jamaica Kincaid, bell hooks, Francisco X. Alarcon, Yusef Komunyakaa, Diane Glancy, and others.

The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World Details

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From Reader Review The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World for online ebook

Trish Remley says

First of all, I had my DNA done and I am like 98% European. My father's side of the family has been in America since about a boat or two after the pilgrims. My mother's side Irish immigrants. The most meaningful t- shirt my husband has is a picture of Native Americans and says Homeland Security - Fighting terrorism since 1492. Makes me upset every time I think about it. Have read many books about this, but never in this context where the narrative out there about nature and the environment is from a white and probably overwhelmingly white male perspective. And that I too have that perspective for the most part. I have been reading some books addressing this issue with the latest being Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer and ever so slowly educating myself. The essays, stories, poems, language by Native Americans, Japanese, Latinos, African Americans and Lebanese are all eye opening and thought provocative. I have to return this book to the library today, but am going to purchase it because first of all I want to re read it again, but also as a source for further writings by the authors and others.

Amy says

This collection of short essays is full of insight concerning diverse cultures and their interactions with nature. It was nice to read nature writing which was not from the point of view of a privileged white male.

Kate says

This is a collection of essays (not short stories as another reviewer stated) that offers a variety of perspectives regarding interactions with the environment. This collection is essentially a response to the problem of the white-washed conversation of environmentalism, ecology, and appreciation of nature. Here, we see "environment" redefined as we are asked consider some challenging questions about environmentalism: What does race and poverty have to do with the destruction of our environment? What if "environment" isn't synonymous with "nature"? What if it also includes urban settings? Does our knowledge of history and culture affect our relationship with the land? Does our lack of national culture in the U.S. contribute to our waste of natural resources? Can we learn from our history and the way the indigenous peoples lived?

It's a provocative and moving collection of essays. I've assigned it to composition students to read, and they find it accessible and more interesting than some of the standard discourse about "going green." I highly recommend.

Michelle says

Full review to come soon.

Colors of Nature is an anthology of 32 diverse authors on the environment.

Divided into four sections of 8 essays each - Return, Witness, Encounter and Praise here is the teaser from

the back of the dust jacket:

From African American to Asian American, indigenous to immigrant, "multiracial" to "mixedblood," the diversity of cultures in today's world is reflected in our richly various stories-stories of creation and destruction, displacement and heartbreak, hope and mystery. For centuries, this richness has been widely overlooked by readers of environmental literature.

Including work from more than thirty contributors of widely diverse backgrounds, this collection works against the grain of this traditional blind spot by exploring the relationship between culture and place, emphasizing the last value of cultural heritage, and revealing how this wealth of perspectives is essential to building a livable future.

Bracing, provocative, and profoundly illuminating, *The Colors of Nature* provides an antidote to the despair so often accompanying the intersection of cultural diversity and ecological awareness.

Olivia Chadha says

It's always a struggle to find books that address both the environment and identity, race, and class. This one does. Highly recommended.

Victoria B. says

Collection of short stories: some were completely boring to trudge through; others were beautiful.
