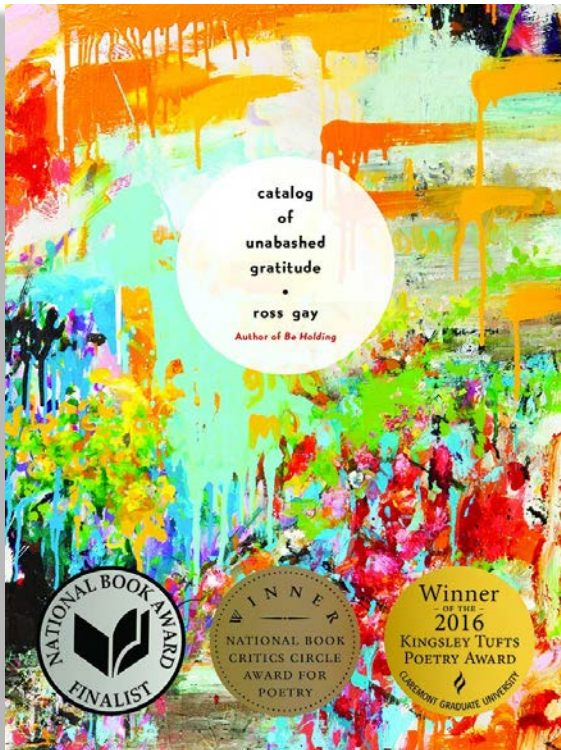


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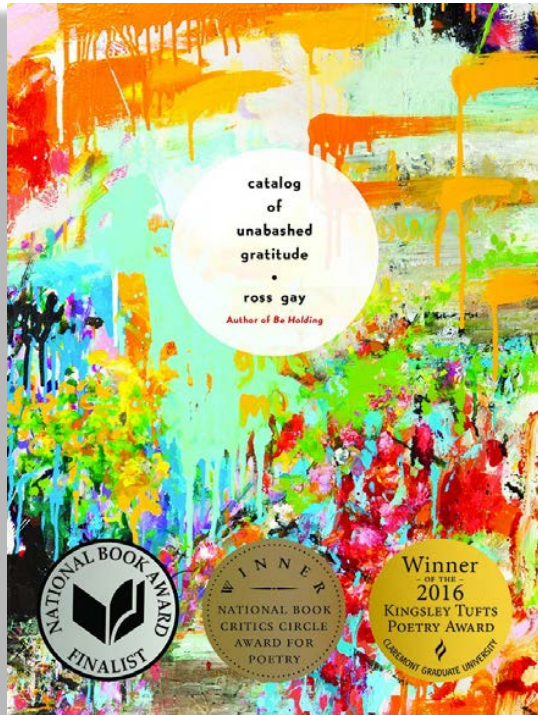
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS **BIG READ**

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Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude
by Ross Gay

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



CATALOG OF UNABASHED GRATITUDE

ROSS GAY

Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude is a sustained meditation on that which goes away—loved ones, the seasons, the earth as we know it—that tries to find solace in the processes of the garden and the orchard. That is, this is a book that studies the wisdom of the garden and orchard, those places where all—death, sorrow, loss—is converted into what might, with patience, nourish us.

Other works by Ross Gay:

- *Inciting Joy: Essays*
- *The Book of Delights*
- *Be Holding: A Poem*
- and more....

Ross Gay is the author of four books of poetry: *Against Which*; *Bringing the Shovel Down*; *Be Holding*, winner of the PEN American Literary Jean Stein Award; and *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. His first collection of essays, *The Book of Delights*, was released in 2019 and was a *New York Times* bestseller. His new collection of essays, *Inciting Joy*, will be released by Algonquin in October of 2022.

Learn more about Ross Gay:

<https://www.rossgay.net/>



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In “Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude,” Gay writes, “I can’t stop my gratitude, / Which includes, dear reader, / You, for staying here with me, / For moving your lips just so as I speak. / Here is a cup of tea. I have spooned honey into it.” (p. 86) What ways do you show gratitude in your life? What actions bring you delight or gratitude? How do you like others to express gratitude for you?
2. In the same poem, Gay recounts a dream in which a robin on a branch growing into his window speaks to him: ““it said so in a human voice, / “Bellow forth”— / And who among us could ignore such odd / And precise counsel?” (p. 82-83) What might Gay be offering in this poem about the lessons that we can learn from the natural world? Are there other moments in the collection where something in nature provides a lesson or “counsel”? Can you think of a time in your own life when an animal or plant taught you something?
3. In the poem “To the Fig Tree on 9th and Christian,” Gay writes about picking figs alongside strangers at an intersection in his town. The poem closes with the lines, “we are feeding each other / From a tree / At the corner of Christian and 9th / Strangers maybe / Never again” (p. 6). What place or places in your own neighborhood, towns, or communities bring people together by chance in meaningful ways? What are the qualities of that place or those places?
4. “I’m a survivor, I survived,” (p. 39) says Don Belton, the 53-year-old gay Black man to whom the poem “Spoon” is dedicated. What makes this statement particularly powerful for this man, in our society, in this poem?
5. Gay frequently addresses his readers directly, either as a collective (“*friends!*”) or as an individual *you*, as in “Last Will and Testament” (“but you get my point, friend”, p. 98) or “Feet” (“...do you really think I’m talking to you about my feet?” p. 21). Why do you think he uses this approach? How did this affect your reading experience? Can you think of other works of art that address their audiences directly?

6. In an interview with *On Being* about his work, Gay said: “...among the things of that thing connecting us is that we have this common experience—many common experiences, but a really foundational one is that we are not here forever. And that’s a joining—a “joy-ning.” How are “joy” and “joining” linked in your own life? Did your experience with joy change for you in some way during the pandemic? Were there any new or unexpected ways that you found yourself joining with your communities?
7. Gay seems to be intent on making himself vulnerable in these poems. He shares insecurities, fears, and mistakes; he apologizes to readers; he seems to allow his poems, sometimes, to “fail.” Are there moments of vulnerability in the book that stood out to you, or that caught you off guard? Why do you think vulnerability is so important to Gay?
8. In “To the Mistake,” Gay writes: “...the mistake / I say is a gift / don’t be afraid / see what it teaches you” (p. 47) Can you find descriptions of “mistakes” in this and the other poems in the collection that might be interpreted as gifts or teachable moments? Can you describe a mistake that you or someone else made that taught you something?
9. In some of these poems, Gay chooses to describe the physical effect of emotions rather than naming them. What do you think motivates that choice? In many, he replaces emotions with animals in the body, as in “Armpit,” where he writes: “I’m trying to get / to the awkward flock / of flamingoes soaring / somewhere below my navel or / in the back of my throat...” (p 30), or in “Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude,” where he describes his “heart like an elephant screaming / at the bones of the dead...” (p. 92). What effect do these images of animals have on you as you read the poem? How might you use descriptions of the natural world to relate common emotions like anger, gratitude, or sorrow?
10. In poems like “Weeping,” Gay describes things by describing what they are *not*: “...Emma must have flown away for good, judging / by the not brutal silence at breakfast...” (p. 43). He does this again in “Ending the Estrangement,” where he writes: “it felt to me / not like what I thought it felt like / to her...” (p. 59). These

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descriptions expand the possibilities of what a thing *is*. What are some other things that can best be described by identifying what they are not?

11. On a related note: in the title poem, Gay includes in his gratitudes “the ancestor who loved you / before she knew you...” by smuggling seeds, planting trees, *not* slaughtering the land, *not* bulldozing trees, “...who did not fire, who did not / plunge the head into the toilet, who said *stop*, / *don’t do that*...” (p. 90). What have your ancestors or predecessors done to love you before they knew you? What did they *not* do? What are you doing—or what do you hope to do—to love generations to come?
12. Some of the gratitudes in this book seem, at first glance, to run contrary to the ways we’re taught to be thankful and the things we’re taught to be thankful for. In “Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude,” for example: “...thank you for taking my father / a few years after his own father went down...thank you / for leaving and for coming back...” (p. 84) Does being grateful for loss or hardship change the loss or hardship in some way? Does it change us?
13. The poems in *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* are largely written in free verse, rather than a more rigid poetic mode. But while some poems, like “Weeping” or “The Opening” favor long, Whitmanesque lines—some reaching all the way to the edge of the page—others are written with short, clipped lines of only a few words, like “Ode to Buttoning and Unbuttoning My Shirt” or “Wedding Poem.” Do these poems feel different as you read them? What if you read them out loud?
14. “Last Will and Testament,” like “Burial,” considers—at times in creative and unconventional ways—what is to be done with the body after death: “oh for god’s sake / have a little fun / with this grave and grizzly drill / and know I’m giggling too / and feel nary a thing” (p. 95). What might be some creative and unconventional messages you might like to offer to your surviving loved ones?

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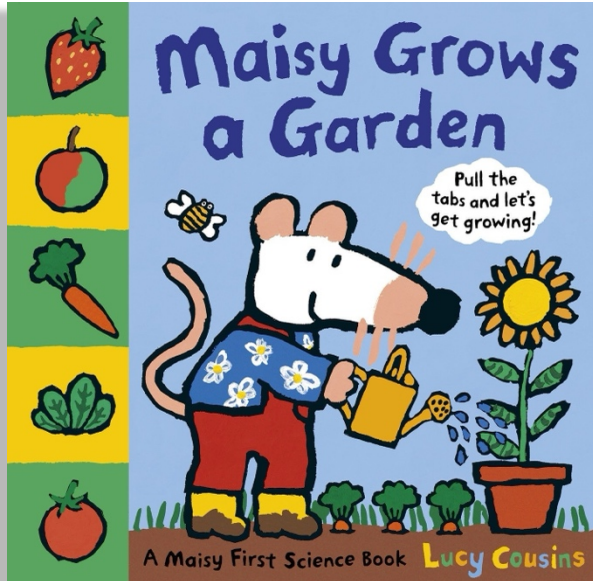
CHILDREN LITERATURE





MAISY GROWS A GARDEN

LUCY COUSINS



What makes Maisy's garden grow? Children can pull the tabs and help Maisy plant and grow a tasty vegetable garden.

Maisy loves to try new things, just like her young fans. This interactive science story invites toddlers and preschoolers to help Maisy dig, sow seeds, water the earth, and weed the garden. Little ones will love seeing the carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, and beans spring from the pages as they take the first steps to develop a green thumb with Maisy and Panda.

Reading Age: 2-4 years

Series: Maisy Series

Pages: 16

Lucy Cousins is the creator of the beloved Maisy series. She is also the author-illustrator of the widely acclaimed *Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales*, a *New York Times Book Review* Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year, as well as *I'm the Best* and *Hooray for Fish!* Lucy Cousins lives in Hampshire, England.

Explore more of Maisy's world:

<https://www.maisyfun.com/forchildren/>



GREEN GREEN: A COMMUNITY GARDENING STORY

MARIE LAMBA, BALDEV LAMBA,
AND SONIA SANCHEZ

Green grass is wide and fresh and clean for a family to play in, and brown dirt is perfect for digging a garden. But when gray buildings start to rise up and a whole city builds, can there be any room for green space? The neighborhood children think so, and they inspire the community to join together and build a garden for everyone to share in the middle of the city.

Reading Age: 2-5 years

Pages: 32

Marie Lamba is author of the contemporary young adult novel *What I Meant*. She is also author of the contemporary YA novel *Over My Head* and of the paranormal YA *Drawn*. Marie's work appears in the short story anthology *Liar Liar* (Mendacity Press and Blackstone Audio), the anthology *Call Me Okaasan: Adventures in Multicultural Mothering* (Wyatt-MacKenzie Publishing), and her articles are in more than 100 publications including national magazines such as *Writer's Digest*, *Garden Design* and *RWR*.

Baldev Lamba, coauthor of *Green Green*, is Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Temple University and an award-winning landscape architect who is one of the designers of The First Ladies Water Garden on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Sonia Sanchez is the illustrator of several books for children, including *Here I Am*, an Eisner award winner for illustration. Sonia lives in Barcelona, Spain.



AND THEN IT'S SPRING

JULIE FOGLIANO & ERIN E. STEAD

Following a snow-filled winter, a young boy and his dog decide that they've had enough of all that brown and resolve to plant a garden. They dig, they plant, they play, they wait . . . and wait . . . until at last, the brown becomes a more hopeful shade of brown, a sign that spring may finally be on its way.

Reading Age: 4-7

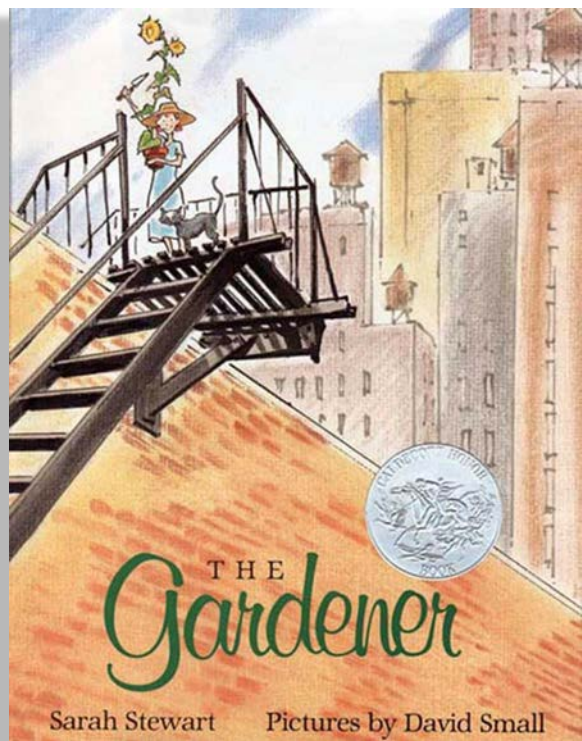
Pages: 32

Awards & Recognitions:

- *2011 Caldecott Medal*
- *The Washington Post's Best Kids Books of 2012*
- *Kirkus Reviews' Best Children's Books of 2012*

Julie Fogliano is the New York Times bestselling author of *And Then It's Spring* and *If You Want to See a Whale* as well as the poetry collection, *When Green Becomes Tomatoes*. Recipient of the 2013 the Ezra Jack Keats award, her books have been translated into more than ten languages. Julie lives in the Hudson Valley with her husband and three children. When she is not folding laundry or wondering what to make for dinner, she is staring out the window waiting for a book idea to fly by.

Erin E. Stead has illustrated several children's books with her husband, Philip C. Stead. Their first picture book, *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, won the Caldecott Medal. She has also illustrated *And Then It's Spring* (written by Julie Fogliano) and contributed to Eric Carle's *What's Your Favorite Animal?* The Steads divide their time between Ann Arbor, Michigan, and New York City.



THE GARDENER

SARAH STEWART & DAVID SMALL

Lydia Grace Finch brings a suitcase full of seeds to the big gray city, where she goes to stay with her Uncle Jim, a cantankerous baker. There she initiates a gradual transformation, bit by bit brightening the shop and bringing smiles to customers' faces with the flowers she grows. But it is in a secret place that Lydia Grace works on her masterpiece -- an ambitious rooftop garden -- which she hopes will make even Uncle Jim smile. Sarah Stewart introduces readers to an engaging and determined young heroine, whose story is told through letters written home, while David Small's illustrations beautifully evoke the Depression-era setting.

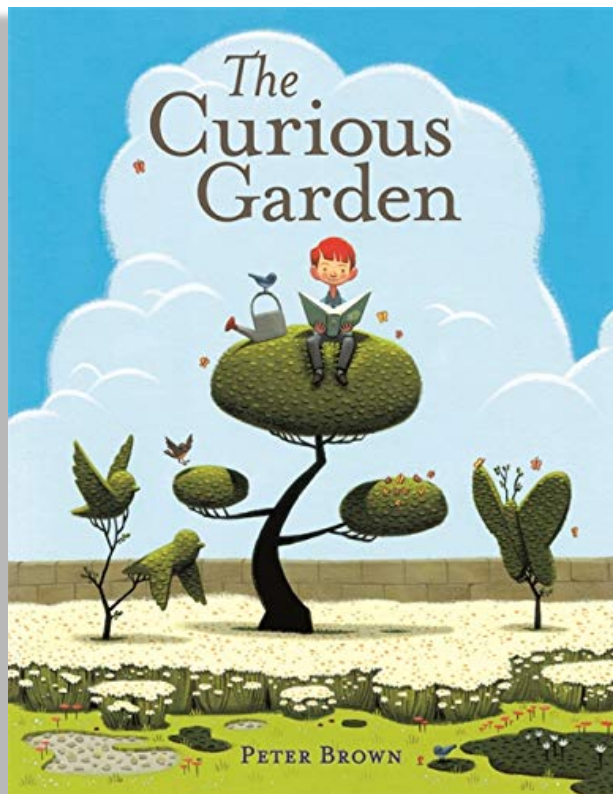
Reading Age: 4-7

Pages: 40

Awards & Recognitions:

- 1997 *New York Times Book Review* Notable Children's Book of the Year
- 1998 *Caldecott Honor Book*

Husband and wife duo **Sarah Stewart** and **David Small** have worked together on several picture books, including *The Friend*, *The Money Tree*, and *The Library*. *The Gardener* is a Caldecott Honor book. Small has also illustrated other books, including the 2001 Caldecott Medal winner *So You Want to Be President?*, by Judith St. George. Stewart and Small live in a historic home on a bend of the St. Joseph River in Michigan.



THE CURIOUS GARDEN

PETER BROWN

One boy's quest for a greener world...
one garden at a time.

While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world.

Reading Age: 4-8

Pages: 40

Other works by Peter Brown:

- *The Wild Robot*
- *The Wild Robot Escapes*
- *Creepy Carrots!*

And more....

Peter Brown is the author and illustrator of many bestselling children's books, including *Children Make Terrible Pets* and *The Curious Garden*. He is the recipient of a Caldecott Honor for *Creepy Carrots!*, two E.B. White Read Aloud Awards, a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Children's Book award, and a Children's Choice Award for Illustrator of the Year.

Learn more about Peter Brown:

www.peterbrownstudio.com



FRIDGE-OPOLIS

MELISSA COFFEY & JOSH CLELAND

In the jam-packed city of Fridge-opolis, Swiss cheese has turned moldy and bleu. The broccoli is in a bad mood downtown in the crispers. And the Eastside high-rises are full of dressings cloudy with gloom. With the city in chaos, Mayor Mayonnaise calls on Doctor Baking Soda at Undersink Labs for help. Will they be able to save Fridge-opolis from utter rancid ruin?

Reading Age: 4-8

Pages: 32

Melissa Coffey spent years writing professionally for grown-ups before discovering her love writing for kids. She hopes her first picture book will inspire readers to become food waste warriors and planet-saving superheroes. Melissa lives with her food adventurous family in Austin, Texas. Visit the author at melissacoffey.com and on Twitter @CoffeyCreative.

Josh Cleland is an illustrator working out of his home studio just outside of Portland, Oregon, where he resides with his wife, Rayna. You will find his work in various children's magazines, including *Highlights* and *Storytime*, and in other media such as greeting cards, websites, billboards, and more. His recent illustrated children's books include *TAD* and *Portland Baby*.

Learn more about Josh Cleland: www.joshcleland.com



CELIA PLANTED A GARDEN: THE STORY OF CELIA THAXTER AND HER ISLAND GARDEN

PHYLLIS ROOT, GARY D. SCHMIDT,
& MELISSA SWEET

Celia Thaxter grew up on a desolate island off the coast of Maine, where her father worked as lighthouse keeper.

Amid the white and gray of the sea, the rocks, and even the birds, young Celia found color where she could: green mosses and purple starfish and pink morning glories by the shore. And she planted her first garden, tucking bright marigolds between rocky ledges. When she was twelve, Celia's family moved to nearby Appledore Island, where her father built a large hotel, and Celia planted a bigger, ever-growing garden with nearly sixty types of flowers, from asters to wisteria.

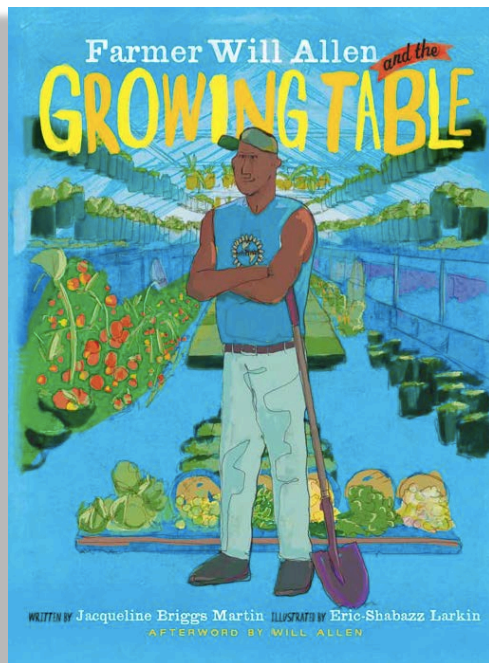
Reading Age: 5-9

Pages: 40

Phyllis Root is the award-winning author of more than forty children's books, including the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award* winner *Big Momma Makes the World*, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, and *One Duck Stuck*, illustrated by Jane Chapman. Phyllis Root lives in Minnesota.

Gary D. Schmidt is the author of two Newbery Honor Books, *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and *The Wednesday Wars*, which also earned a Michael L. Printz Honor, as well as the National Book Award Finalist *Okay for Now*. He lives in Michigan.

Melissa Sweet is a *New York Times* best-selling author and has illustrated nearly one hundred children's books. She has received numerous awards, including two Caldecott Honors, the Robert F. Sibert Medal, an Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, and the Schneider Family Book Award. She lives in Maine.



FARMER WILL ALLEN AND THE GROWING TABLE

JACQUELINE BRIGGS MARTIN,
ERIC-SHABAZZ LARKIN & ALLEN WILL

Will Allen is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he's as tall as his truck, and he can hold a cabbage--or a basketball--in one hand. But what is most special about Farmer Will is that he can see what others can't see. When he looked at an abandoned city lot in Milwaukee he saw a huge table, big enough to feed the whole world.

Reading Age: 6-10

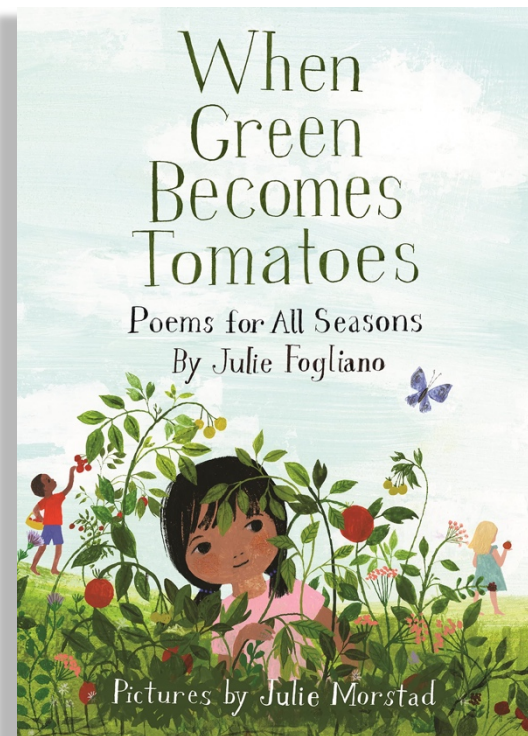
Series: *Food Heroes*

Pages: 32

Jacqueline Briggs Martin's many children's books include *Snowflake Bentley*, winner of the Caldecott Medal, and *Alice Waters and the Trip to Delicious*, a *School Library Journal* "starred" review book and the follow up to *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*, part of the Food Hero series about people who changed what and how we eat. She grew up on a farm in Maine and now lives in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

Eric-Shabazz Larkin made his illustration debut with *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* in 2013 and his author-illustrator debut with *A Moose Boosh: A Few Choice Words About Food* in 2014. Both were named American Library Association Notable Children's Books. He lives in New York City.

Will Allen is a farmer and founder and CEO of Growing Power in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is recognized as a preeminent practitioner of urban agriculture in America and throughout the world. A former basketball star, he was named a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow in 2008 and *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2010.



WHEN GREEN BECOMES TOMATOES: POEMS FOR ALL SEASONS

JULIE FOGLIANO & JULIE MORSTAD

december 29

and i woke to a morning

that was quiet and white

the first snow

(just like magic) came on tip toes

overnight

Flowers blooming in sheets of snow make
way for happy frogs dancing in the rain.
Summer swims move over for autumn
sweaters until the snow comes back again.

Reading Age: 6-10

Pages: 56

Julie Fogliano is the New York Times bestselling author of *And Then It's Spring* and *If You Want to See a Whale* as well as the poetry collection, *When Green Becomes Tomatoes*. Recipient of the 2013 the Ezra Jack Keats award, her books have been translated into more than ten languages. Julie lives in the Hudson Valley with her husband and three children. When she is not folding laundry or wondering what to make for dinner, she is staring out the window waiting for a book idea to fly by.

Learn more about Julie Fogliano:

<https://juliefogliano.com/>

Julie Morstad is an award-winning illustrator and artist living with her family in Vancouver, B.C.

Learn more about Julie Morstad:

<https://juliemorstad.com/>

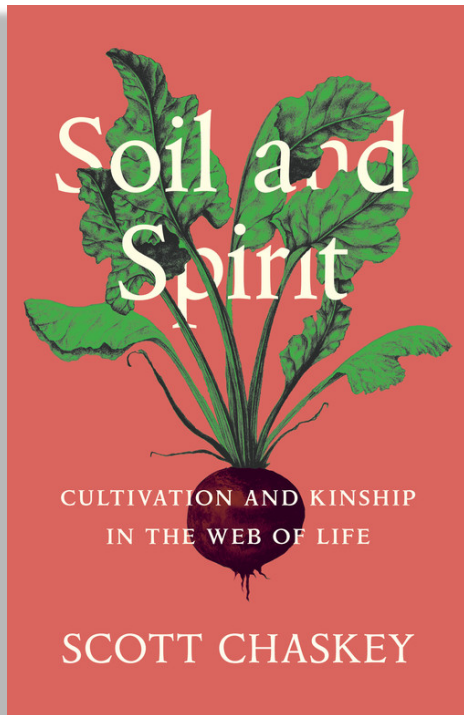
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NONFICTION





SOIL AND SPIRIT: CULTIVATION AND KINSHIP IN THE WEB OF LIFE

SCOTT CHASKEY

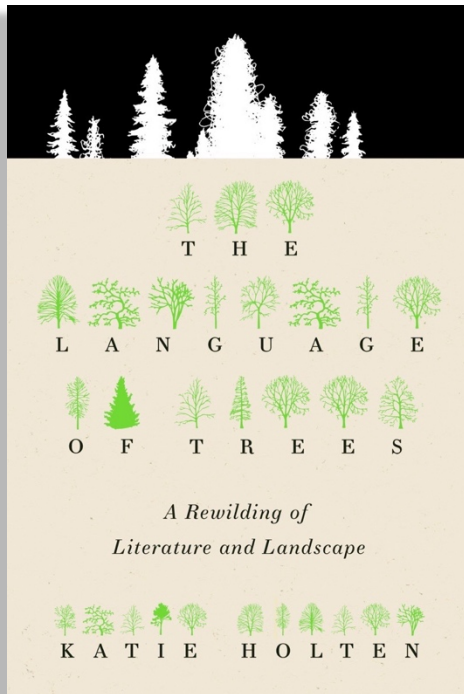
As a farmer with decades spent working in fields, Scott Chaskey has been shaped by daily attention to the earth. A leader in the international Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement, he has combined a longstanding commitment to food sovereignty and organic farming with a belief that humble attention to microbial life and diversity of species provides invaluable lessons for building healthy human communities.

Category: *Essays*

Scott Chaskey is the author of *Soil and Spirit*. His poetry, first printed in literary journals in the early seventies, has been widely published over four decades. A pioneer of the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement, for thirty years he cultivated more than sixty crops for the Peconic Land Trust at Quail Hill Farm in Amagansett, New York, one of the original CSAs in the country.

Learn More about Scott Chaskey:

<https://www.scottchaskey.com/>



THE LANGUAGE OF TREES: A REWILDING OF LITERATURE AND LANDSCAPE

KATIE HOLTEN, WITH
INTRODUCTIONS BY ROSS GAY

Inspired by forests, trees, leaves, roots, and seeds, *The Language of Trees: A Rewilding of Literature and Landscape* invites readers to discover an unexpected and imaginative language to better read and write the natural world around us and reclaim our relationship with it. In this gorgeously illustrated and deeply thoughtful collection, Katie Holten gifts readers her tree alphabet and uses it to masterfully translate and illuminate beloved writing in praise

of the natural world. With an introduction from Ross Gay, and featuring writings from over fifty contributors, including Ursula K. Le Guin, Ada Limón, Robert Macfarlane, Zadie Smith, Radiohead, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, James Gleick, Elizabeth Kolbert, Plato, and Robin Wall Kimmerer, Holten illustrates each selection with an abiding love and reverence for the magic of trees. She guides readers on a journey from "primeval atoms" and cave paintings to the death of a 3,500 year-old cypress tree, from Tree Clocks in Mongolia and forest fragments in the Amazon to the language of fossil poetry, unearthing a new way to see the natural beauty all around us and an urgent reminder of what could happen if we allow it to slip away.

Category: *Essays*

Katie Holten is an artist and activist. She has had solo exhibitions at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Nevada Museum of Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, and Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane. Her drawings investigate the tangled relationships between humans and the natural world. She has created Tree Alphabets, a Stone Alphabet, and a Wildflower Alphabet to share the joy she finds in her love of the more-than-human world. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, and *frieze*.



THE EARTH IN HER HANDS: 75 EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN WORKING IN THE WORLD OF PLANTS

JENNIFER JEWELL

In this beautiful and empowering book, Jennifer Jewell introduces 75 inspiring women. Working in wide-reaching fields that include botany, floral design, landscape architecture, farming, herbalism, and food justice, these influencers are creating change from the ground up.

Profiled women include flower farmer Erin Benzakein; codirector of Soul Fire Farm Leah Penniman; plantswoman Flora Grubb; edible and cultural landscape designer Leslie Bennett; Caribbean-American writer and gardener Jamaica Kincaid; soil scientist Elaine Ingham; landscape designer Ariella Chezar; floral designer Amy Merrick, and many more. Rich with personal stories and insights, Jewell's portraits reveal a devotion that transcends age, locale, and background, reminding us of the profound role of green growing things in our world—and our lives.

Category: *Essays*

Jennifer Jewell is a gardener, garden writer, and gardening educator and advocate. Since 2016, she has written and hosted the national award-winning, weekly public radio program and podcast, *Cultivating Place*, a coproduction of North State Public Radio in Chico, California. Particularly interested in the intersections between gardens, the native plant environments around them, and human culture, she is the daughter of a garden- and floral-designing mother and a wildlife biologist father. Jennifer has been writing about gardening professionally since 1998, and her work has appeared in *Gardens Illustrated*, *House & Garden*, *Natural Home*, *Old House Journal*, *Colorado Homes & Lifestyles*, and *Pacific Horticulture*.



SEEKING THE AMERICAN TROPICS: SOUTH FLORIDA'S EARLY NATURALISTS

JAMES A. KUSHLAN

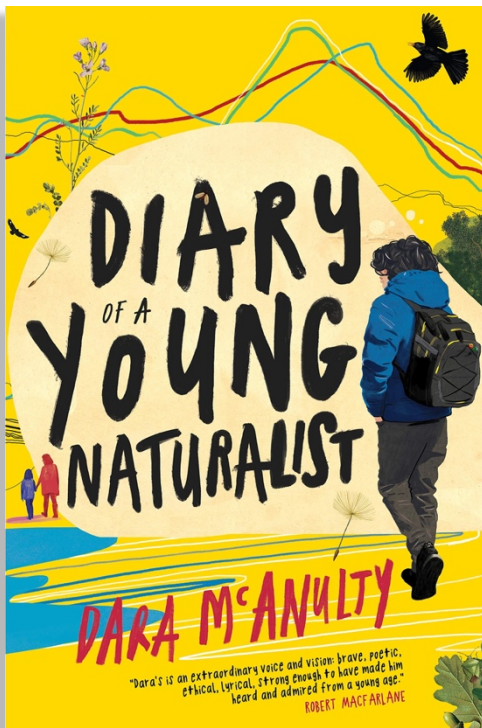
For centuries, the southernmost region of the Florida peninsula was seen by outsiders as wild and inaccessible, one of the last frontiers in the quest to understand and reveal the natural history of the continent. *Seeking the American Tropics* tells the stories of the explorers and adventurers who—for better and for worse—helped open the unique environment of South Florida to the world.

Category: *History*

James A. Kushlan is an ornithologist, conservationist, and writer. He has served as research associate for the Smithsonian Institution, director of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and president of the American Ornithologists' Union. His many books include *Attracting Birds to South Florida Gardens*.

Learn more about James A. Kushlan:

<https://jamesakushlan.com/>



DIARY OF A YOUNG NATURALIST

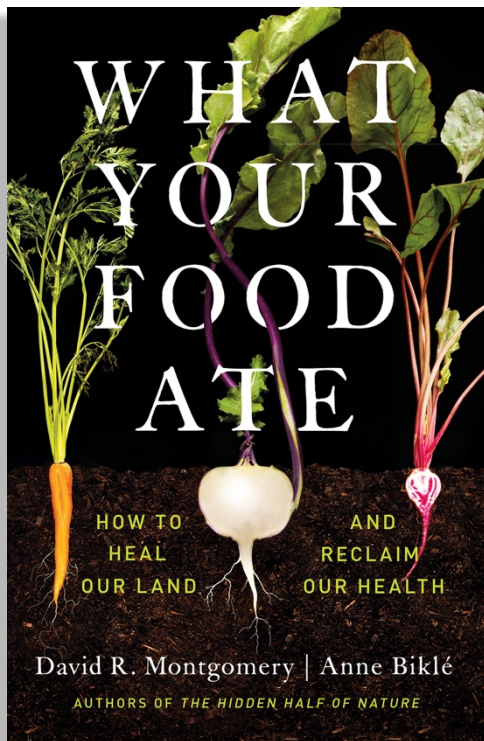
DARA MCANULTY

Diary of a Young Naturalist chronicles the turning of a year in Dara's Northern Ireland home patch. Beginning in spring—when “the sparrows dig the moss from the guttering and the air is as puffed out as the robin's chest”—these diary entries about his connection to wildlife and the way he sees the world are vivid, evocative, and moving.

Category: *Biographies*

Awards & Recognitions: *Winner of the Wainwright Prize for UK nature writing*

Dara McAnulty is the author *Diary of a Young Naturalist*. He is the recipient of the Wainwright Prize for nature writing. Dara lives with his mum, dad, brother Lorcan, sister Bláthnaid and rescue greyhound Rosie in County Down, Northern Ireland. Dara's love for nature, his activism and his honesty about autism, has earned him a huge social media following from across the world and many accolades: in 2017 he was awarded BBC Springwatch 'Unsprung Hero' Award and Birdwatch magazine 'Local Hero'; in 2018 he was awarded 'Animal Hero' of the year by the *Daily Mirror* and became ambassador for RSPCA and the iWill campaign; in 2019 he became a Young Ambassador for the Jane Goodall Institute and became the youngest ever recipient of the RSPB Medal for conservation.



WHAT YOUR FOOD ATE: HOW TO HEAL OUR LAND AND RECLAIM OUR HEALTH

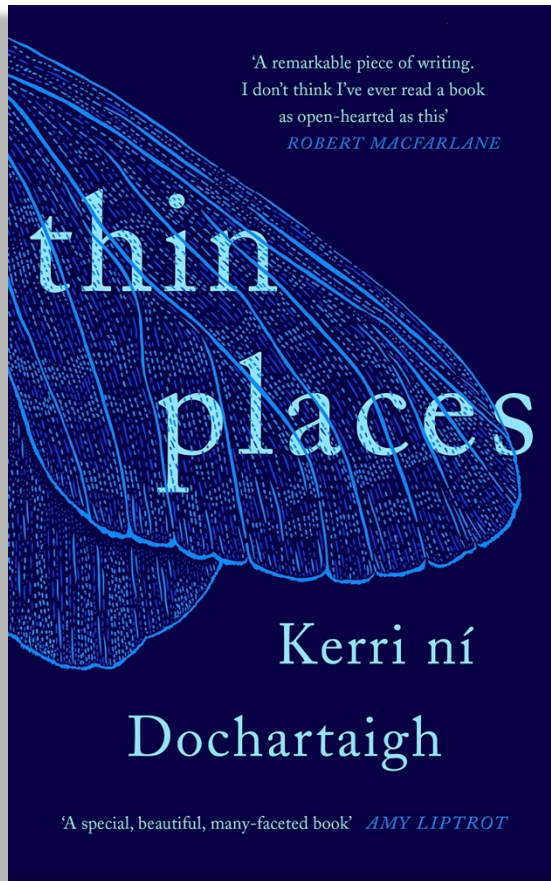
DAVID R. MONTGOMERY & ANNE
BIKLÉ

A call to action that underscores why the roots of good health start with how we farm. We know that our diet influences our health. But is there more to the adage “you are what you eat?” Connecting the dots from agriculture to medicine, geologist David R. Montgomery and biologist Anne Biklé argue we overlook the other half of a healthy diet: how we grow our food.

Journeying from research labs to the fields of regenerative farmers, they uncover scientific and historical evidence for how farming practices—so often disruptive to microbial partnerships—influence soil health and shape the types and amounts of health-promoting minerals, fats, and phytochemicals in our crops, meat, and dairy—and thus ourselves. Understanding these connections has profound implications for what we eat and how we grow it, now and in the future. A capstone work from lauded authors, *What Your Food Ate* is a story both sobering and inspiring: what’s good for the soil is good for us, too.

David R. Montgomery is a professor at the University of Washington and a 2008 MacArthur Fellow.

Anne Biklé is a biologist and environmental planner. *What Your Food Ate* is the capstone of their “Dirt Trilogy.” She lives in Seattle, Washington.



THIN PLACES

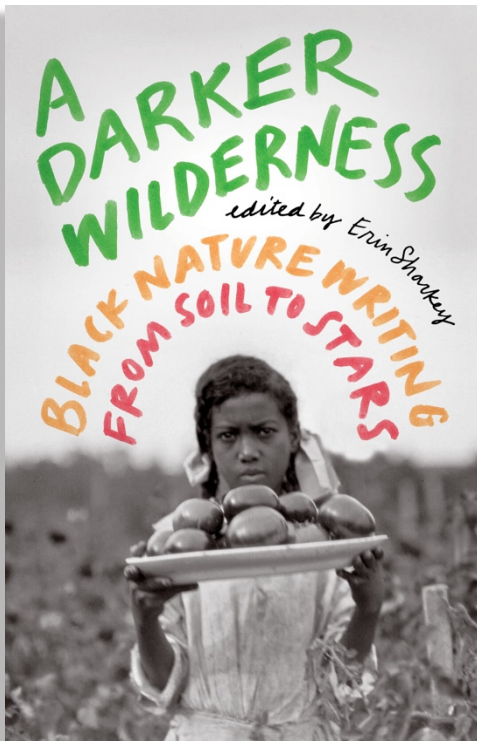
KERRI NÍ DOCHARTAIGH

In *Thin Places*, a mixture of memoir, history and nature writing, Kerri explores how nature kept her sane and helped her heal, how violence and poverty are never more than a stone's throw from beauty and hope, and how we are, once again, allowing our borders to become hard, and terror to creep back in. Kerri asks us to reclaim our landscape through language and study, and remember that the land we fight over is much more than lines on a map. It will always be ours but, at the same time, it never really was.

Category: *Memoir*

Awards & Recognitions: *Longlisted for the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing*

Kerri ní Dochartaigh is the author of *Thin Places*. She has written for *The Guardian*, *the Irish Times*, the *BBC*, *Winter Papers*, and others. She is from the North West of Ireland but now lives in the middle, in an old railway cottage with her partner and dog.



A DARKER WILDERNESS: BLACK NATURE WRITING FROM SOIL TO STARS

ERIN SHARKEY

A vibrant collection of personal and lyric essays in conversation with archival objects of Black history and memory.

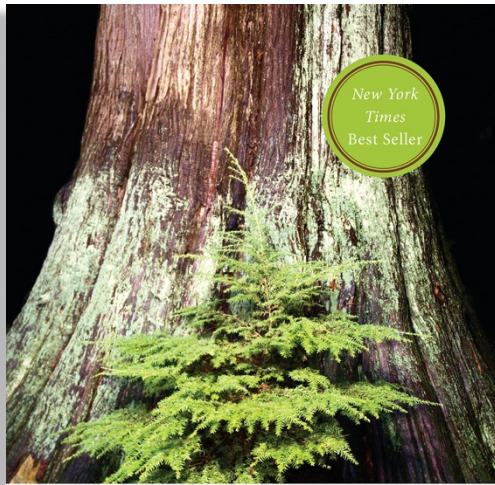
What are the politics of nature? Who owns it, where is it, what role does it play in our lives? Does it need to be tamed? Are we ourselves natural? In *A Darker Wilderness*, a constellation of luminary writers reflect on the significance of nature in their lived experience and on the role of nature in the lives of Black folks in the United States. Each of these essays engages with a single archival object, whether

directly or obliquely, exploring stories spanning hundreds of years and thousands of miles, traveling from roots to space and finding rich Blackness everywhere.

Category: *Essays*

Erin Sharkey is a writer, arts and abolition organizer, cultural worker, and film producer based in Minneapolis.

Learn more about Erin Sharkey: <https://milkweed.org/author/erin-sharkey>



FINDING THE MOTHER TREE

Discovering the
Wisdom of the Forest

SUZANNE SIMARD

FINDING THE MOTHER TREE: DISCOVERING THE WISDOM OF THE FOREST

SUZANNE SIMARD

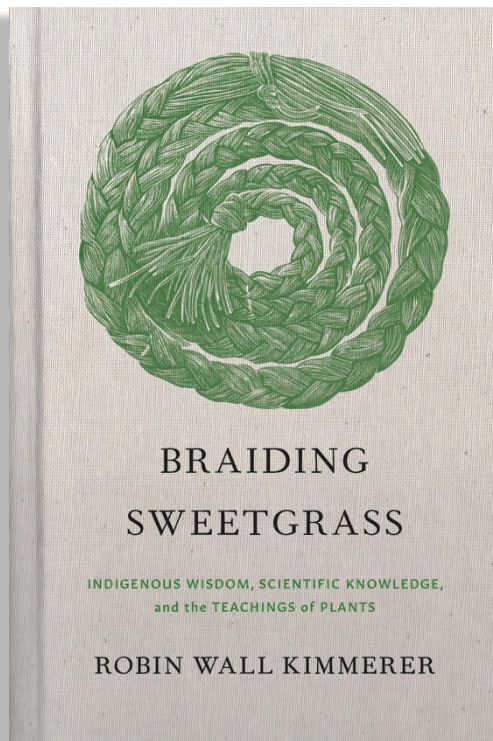
Suzanne Simard brings us into her world, the intimate world of the trees, in which she brilliantly illuminates the fascinating and vital truths--that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp, but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life; that forests are social, cooperative creatures connected through underground networks by which trees communicate their vitality and vulnerabilities with communal lives not that different from our own.

Category: *Biography & Memoir*

Dr. Suzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia, where she currently leads The Mother Tree Project and co-directs the Belowground Ecosystem Group. Dr. Simard has earned a global reputation for pioneering research on tree connectivity and communication, and studying the impact on the productivity, health, and biodiversity of forests. Her work has been published widely, with over 170 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, including *Nature*, *Ecology*, and *Global Biology*, and she has co-authored the book *Climate Change and Variability*. Her research has been communicated broadly through three TED Talks, TED Experiences, as well as articles and interviews in *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, *The Globe and Mail*, NPR, CNN, CBC, and many more.

Learn more about Dr. Suzanne Simard:

<https://suzannesimard.com/>



BRAIDING SWEETGRASS: INDIGENOUS WISDOM, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND THE TEACHINGS OF PLANTS

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert).

Category: *Essays*

Other Works:

- *Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*
- *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling collection of essays *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* as well as *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*. Kimmerer is a 2022 MacArthur Fellow. She lives in Syracuse, New York, where she is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology, and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

Learn more about Robin Wall Kimmerer:

<https://www.robinwallkimmerer.com/>

Miami Book Fair

 Miami Dade College

A graphic element consisting of several colorful triangles (teal, pink, yellow, and blue) arranged in a fan-like shape, pointing towards the center.

POETRY

Miami Book Fair

Miami Dade College



THESE TREES, THOSE LEAVES, THIS FLOWER, THAT FRUIT: POEMS

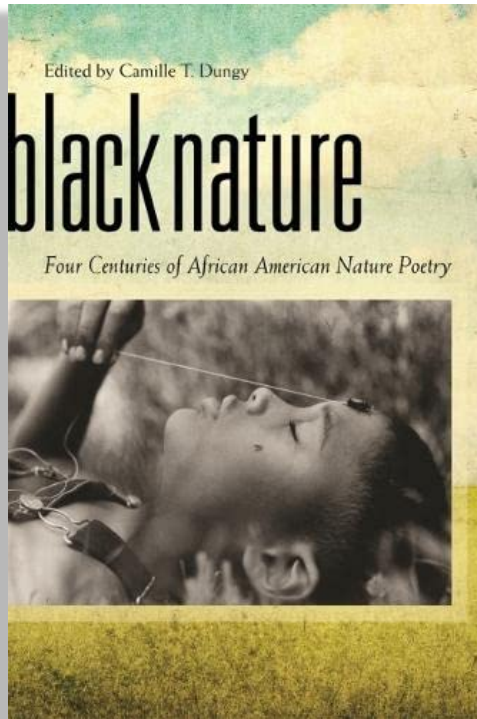
HAYAN CHARARA

With *These Trees, Those Leaves, This Flower, That Fruit*, Hayan Charara presents readers with a medley of ambitious analyses, written in characteristically wry verse. He takes philosophers to task, jousts with academics, and scrutinizes hollow gestures of empathy, exposing the dangers of thinking ourselves “separate / from [our] thoughts and experiences.” After all, “No work of love / will flourish out of guilt, fear, or hollowness of heart.” But how do we act on fullness of heart? How, knowing as we do that “genocide is inscribed in our earliest and holiest texts”?

Hayan Charara is a poet, children’s book author, essayist, and editor. His poetry books are *These Trees, Those Leaves, This Flower, That Fruit* (Milkweed Editions 2022), *Something Sinister* (Carnegie Mellon Univ Press 2016), *The Sadness of Others* (Carnegie Mellon Univ Press 2006), and *The Alchemist’s Diary* (Hanging Loose Press 2001). His children’s book, *The Three Lucys* (2016), received the New Voices Award Honor, and he edited *Inclined to Speak* (2008), an anthology of contemporary Arab American poetry. With Fady Joudah, he is also a series editor of the Etel Adnan Poetry Prize. His honors include the Arab American Book Award, a literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Lucille Joy Prize in Poetry from the University of Houston Creative Writing Program, and the John Clare Prize.

Learn more about Hayan Charara:

<http://www.hayancharara.com/>



BLACK NATURE: FOUR CENTURIES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN NATURE POETRY

CAMILLE T. DUNGY (EDITOR)

Black Nature is the first anthology to focus on nature writing by African American poets, a genre that until now has not commonly been counted as one in which African American poets have participated.

Black poets have a long tradition of incorporating treatments of the natural world into their work, but it is often read as political, historical, or protest poetry—anything but nature poetry. This is particularly true when the definition of what constitutes nature writing is limited to work about the pastoral or the wild.

Camille T. Dungy has selected 180 poems from 93 poets that provide unique perspectives on American social and literary history to broaden our concept of nature poetry and African American poetics. This collection features major writers such as Phillis Wheatley, Rita Dove, Yusef Komunyakaa, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sterling Brown, Robert Hayden, Wanda Coleman, Natasha Trethewey, and Melvin B. Tolson as well as newer talents such as Douglas Kearney, Major Jackson, and Janice Harrington.

CAMILLE T. DUNGY is an associate professor in the Creative Writing Department at San Francisco State University. She is the author of two poetry collections, *What to Eat*, *What to Drink*, *What to Leave for Poison* and *Suck on the Marrow*, and has helped edit two other poetry anthologies.

See the full list of contributors to *Black Nature*:

<https://ugapress.org/book/9780820334318/black-nature/>

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



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NAITI GÁMEZ



Category: *Profiles*

Naiti Gámez is a NYC & Miami-based filmmaker. Naiti has worked as a cinematographer and director on award-winning films and television series. Her film, **Love, Sadie** premiered at the Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner.

Her film credits have screened at festivals worldwide including Festival de Cannes, Sundance Film Festival, Berlinale, Camerimage, Tribeca Film Festival, SXSW, Festival du Cinema de Paris, Festival de Cine Internacional de Barcelona, among many others. Her TV credits include HBO, Showtime, PBS, ESPN, MTV, Discovery Channel, Nova, and more. Recent feature-length documentary credits include **Listening to Kenny G** (out on HBOmax); **Ailey**, about Alvin Ailey's life and legacy; **Through the Night**, a portrait of 3 women's lives as they intersect at a 24-hr day care center; and **Hail Satan?**, a provocative exploration of religious freedom in the United States.

Naiti has also worked at non-profit organizations in the U.S. and as an educator. She holds a B.A. in Latin American Studies from Smith College, and an M.F.A. in Film Production from the University of Texas at Austin.

Check out Naiti Gámez's works:

<https://www.naitigamez.net/2139641-doc-narrative>

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MIAMI BEACH GARDEN CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS



monthly meetings

Category: *Events*

The Miami Beach Garden Club meets at the Botanical Garden on the 2nd Thursday of every month from October through May. Please contact ldelatorregunn@gmail.com if you would like to attend a meeting.

The mission of the Miami Beach Garden Club is to promote the cultivation of plants and flowers in our community through projects that focus on: beautification of our city; mentoring and sponsoring student programs (locally and statewide); and support of the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. Some of their programs include working with school children on their gardens at multiple local schools. They offer assistance at our local community garden, floral design and horticulture classes, fieldtrip outings and continue to expand their knowledge through monthly programs.

Schedule:

- 01/12/23 @ 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- 02/09/23 @ 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- 03/09/23 @ 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- 04/13/23 @ 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- 05/11/23 @ 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

More information:

<https://mbgarden.org/event/miami-beach-garden-club-monthly-meetings/all/>

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Grow Roots in Miami, a gardening and food justice non profit organization. Grow Roots Miami installs edible home gardens & food forests, and teach educational workshops on gardening, sustainability, and resilience.

Learn more about Grow Roots Miami: <https://www.growrootsmiami.org/>

Health in the Hood encompasses a full solution to creating an impactful and sustainable initiative, rooted in a garden.



At Health in the Hood, they connect families to wellness through:

- Urban Farming
- Free produce distribution
- Nutrition Education
- Other community engagement programs

Learn more about Health in the Hood: <https://www.healthinthehood.org/>

Miami Compost Project

Essence of Miami Compost Project: Flow with the natural cycles of our environment in order to create food systems that heal the land. By doing so we end up healing ourselves.

Services include:

- Creating Regenerative Systems
- Garden Education
- Garden Builds
- Garden Maintenance

Learn more about Miami Compost Project: <https://miamicompost.org/>

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Green Haven Project is a non-profit organization with a focus on creating community gardens and sustainable eco-systems in areas that are predominantly known as food deserts. These are urban areas where residents generally reside in low income housing with little to no access to fresh produce within a 10 mile radius. We also focus on providing education on horticulture and nutrition to youth. The food grown is given away to local residents free of charge. Our mission is to empower residents to live a healthy-sustainable life, through fresh locally grown food.

Learn more about Green Haven Project: <https://www.greenhavenproject.org/>

Urban Oasis Project is making healthy, fresh, local food accessible to all using a multi-faceted approach forging relationships to connect diverse issues and communities.

They operate Farmers Markets, an online virtual farmers market, and distribute literal tons of produce from local farms to consumers. Most of UOP charitable activities incorporate business practices to create economically self sustaining programs that serve a wide demographic of incomes. Gardens are free and sliding scale, pay what you can model, and produce boxes for free are offered for those in need.



Learn more about Urban Oasis Project: <http://www.urbanoasisproject.org/>

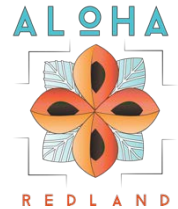


Little River Cooperative's mission is to empower people to grow their own food & medicine at home through education & exposure to farming in an urban environment. They do that by building gardens, growing plants, teaching workshops and more...

Learn more about Little River Cooperative: <https://littlerivercooperative.com/>

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Aloha Redland is a women led farm growing nutritious vegetables for the local community. Aloha Redland grows and sell farm fresh produce. They encourage their members to focus on cooking their own food and the positive effects of that lifestyle.



Learn more about Aloha Redland here: <https://www.aloharedland.com/>

Fairchild NASA Citizen Science program

The **Growing Beyond Earth** Program, a partnership between Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the Space Crop Production research group at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, has had more than 10,000 middle and high school students contribute to NASA research. Participating teachers in grades 6-12 receive all the materials to conduct research similar to how plants are being grown in the Veggie chamber on the International Space Station. Students conduct experiment trials, collect data on different crop types and growing techniques, and report these data in a dedicated online portal. The compiled data are accessed by Fairchild and NASA scientists, and crops and approaches that work well in classrooms are then tested at Kennedy Space Center.

Learn more about the Fairchild NASA Citizen Science program:

<https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/citizenscience/growing-beyond-earth-a-citizen-science-project>