

gene luen yang american born chinese

Gene Luen Yang American Born Chinese: Exploring Identity Through Graphic Storytelling

gene luen yang american born chinese is a phrase that resonates deeply in the world of graphic novels and contemporary literature. Gene Luen Yang's groundbreaking work, *American Born Chinese*, has not only established him as a pivotal voice in Asian American storytelling but has also carved a unique space for graphic novels as powerful tools for exploring identity, culture, and self-acceptance. If you're curious about why this book is so influential or want to understand the nuances of Yang's storytelling, you're in the right place.

Who Is Gene Luen Yang?

Before diving into *American Born Chinese*, it's helpful to know a bit about the author himself. Gene Luen Yang is an acclaimed graphic novelist and educator, widely recognized for his ability to weave complex cultural themes with accessibility and humor. Born in 1973 in California to Chinese immigrant parents, Yang's personal experiences growing up in a bicultural environment heavily inform his work.

Yang's career spans a wide array of graphic novels and comics, but *American Born Chinese* remains his most celebrated work. His writing often tackles themes of cultural identity, assimilation, and the Asian American experience, making him a significant figure in both literary and cultural circles.

American Born Chinese: A Unique Narrative Approach

At its core, *American Born Chinese* is a coming-of-age story that weaves together three seemingly unrelated narratives, culminating in a powerful commentary on race, identity, and acceptance. The graphic novel was published in 2006 and quickly gained critical acclaim, becoming the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and winning the Michael L. Printz Award.

The Three Interwoven Stories

The genius of *American Born Chinese* lies in its structure. Yang tells three separate stories that eventually intersect:

- **Jin Wang's Story:** Jin is a Chinese American boy struggling to fit in at a predominantly white school. His journey captures the challenges of cultural assimilation and the desire to be accepted.
- **The Monkey King:** A retelling of a classic Chinese folk tale about the Monkey King, who battles his own identity and pride.
- **Danny and Chin-Kee:** Danny is a typical American teenager whose cousin Chin-Kee embodies every negative Chinese stereotype imaginable, providing satirical commentary on racial prejudice.

These narratives are skillfully interwoven to highlight the different facets of Asian American identity and the internal and external conflicts that come with it.

Exploring Themes in Gene Luen Yang's American Born Chinese

One of the reasons *American Born Chinese* stands out is its nuanced exploration of identity and stereotypes. Yang uses humor and fantasy to tackle serious issues without alienating readers.

The Struggle with Cultural Identity

For many Asian Americans, the feeling of being caught between two cultures is a relatable experience. Jin Wang's story exemplifies this struggle—he wants to fit in with his American peers but also fears losing his cultural roots. This tension is a core theme throughout the book and invites readers to reflect on their own experiences with identity.

Confronting Stereotypes and Racism

Yang doesn't shy away from addressing the harmful stereotypes that Asian Americans often face. Through the character of Chin-Kee, the book satirizes exaggerated caricatures and challenges readers to recognize the damage of such portrayals. This approach encourages a critical examination of racial prejudice in a way that is both accessible and thought-provoking.

The Power of Acceptance and Self-Love

Ultimately, *American Born Chinese* is about embracing who you are. The

Monkey King's tale mirrors Jin's journey, highlighting the importance of accepting oneself rather than trying to conform to others' expectations. This message resonates widely, contributing to the book's lasting impact.

Why Gene Luen Yang's American Born Chinese Matters Today

Even years after its publication, *American Born Chinese* remains relevant in discussions about diversity in literature and representation in media. Here's why:

- **Representation:** It provides a rare and authentic portrayal of Asian American experiences in a medium that is accessible to younger audiences.
- **Educational Tool:** The book is widely used in schools to teach about race, identity, and cultural heritage, sparking important conversations among students.
- **Graphic Novel Impact:** It helped elevate graphic novels as serious literature capable of conveying complex themes, paving the way for other diverse voices in the genre.

Gene Luen Yang's Influence Beyond American Born Chinese

While *American Born Chinese* is a landmark work, Yang's influence extends beyond this novel. He has authored other significant graphic novels such as *Boxers & Saints*, which explores Chinese history and culture, and *Dragon Hoops*, a memoir about basketball and community. His role as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (2016-2017) further cemented his commitment to encouraging diverse storytelling.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating American Born Chinese

If you're new to graphic novels or want to dive deeper into *American Born Chinese*, consider these tips:

1. **Read Slowly and Observe:** Graphic novels combine visuals and text, so take time to absorb the artwork and panel layouts as they contribute to the storytelling.
2. **Reflect on the Themes:** Think about how the characters' experiences relate to broader issues of race, identity, and cultural acceptance.
3. **Discuss with Others:** Sharing your thoughts with friends or book clubs can open up new perspectives and enhance your understanding.
4. **Explore Related Works:** Check out other graphic novels by Gene Luen Yang or books about Asian American experiences to broaden your literary horizons.

The Lasting Legacy of Gene Luen Yang's American Born Chinese

American Born Chinese continues to inspire readers across generations. It's celebrated not just for its storytelling but for its ability to humanize the Asian American experience in a way that is relatable, educational, and entertaining. Yang's work invites readers to embrace complexity, challenge stereotypes, and find pride in their identities—messages that remain as vital today as when the book first captivated audiences.

Whether you're a longtime fan of graphic novels or discovering this genre for the first time, Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese* offers a rich, multifaceted journey into the heart of identity and belonging. It's a testament to the power of storytelling to bridge cultures and foster understanding in an increasingly diverse world.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Gene Luen Yang?

Gene Luen Yang is an American cartoonist and graphic novelist best known for his work on *American Born Chinese*. He is recognized for his contributions to diversity in comics and for exploring Asian American identity.

What is 'American Born Chinese' about?

American Born Chinese is a graphic novel by Gene Luen Yang that weaves together three stories to explore themes of identity, culture, and self-acceptance experienced by Asian Americans.

Why is 'American Born Chinese' considered important in graphic novels?

'American Born Chinese' is celebrated for its innovative storytelling and its honest portrayal of the Asian American experience, breaking stereotypes and promoting cultural understanding. It was also the first graphic novel nominated for a National Book Award.

Has Gene Luen Yang won any awards for 'American Born Chinese'?

Yes, Gene Luen Yang won the 2007 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature for 'American Born Chinese,' among other accolades.

How does 'American Born Chinese' address Asian American identity?

'American Born Chinese' addresses Asian American identity by blending mythological elements with real-life struggles, highlighting issues such as assimilation, racism, and the search for self-identity through relatable characters and narratives.

Additional Resources

****Gene Luen Yang American Born Chinese: A Critical Exploration of Identity and Representation****

gene luen yang american born chinese emerges as a pivotal work in the landscape of contemporary graphic novels, bridging cultural narratives with accessible storytelling. This seminal piece by Gene Luen Yang, an acclaimed American cartoonist and educator, delves deeply into the complexities of Asian American identity, making it both a literary and cultural landmark. As a narrative that combines myth, social commentary, and personal experience, ***American Born Chinese*** has garnered significant attention for its nuanced portrayal of bicultural tensions and the quest for self-acceptance.

Understanding Gene Luen Yang's American Born Chinese

Gene Luen Yang's ***American Born Chinese*** is not merely a graphic novel but a multifaceted exploration of cultural identity, stereotypes, and the immigrant experience in the United States. Published in 2006, the work won the Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature and was a National Book Award finalist, signaling its critical and commercial impact. The novel is structured around three interwoven storylines, each illuminating different

facets of Asian American life and the challenges of assimilation.

At its core, *American Born Chinese* confronts the stereotypes that Asian Americans often face, weaving these themes through the stories of Jin Wang, a Chinese American boy struggling with his identity; the legendary Monkey King from Chinese folklore; and Chin-Kee, a character embodying offensive Asian stereotypes. This tripartite narrative structure allows Yang to dissect cultural myths and real-world prejudices simultaneously, offering readers an insightful commentary on race, acceptance, and self-worth.

Thematic Depth and Symbolism

The novel's strength lies in its thematic complexity, blending humor, fantasy, and painful reality. Jin Wang's story is particularly resonant, depicting the everyday challenges of an American-born Chinese adolescent trying to reconcile his heritage with the desire to fit in. His experiences mirror those of many second-generation immigrants who navigate dual identities—caught between the expectations of their families and the dominant culture.

The Monkey King storyline draws from classical Chinese mythology, symbolizing the struggle for self-empowerment and transformation. Yang's adaptation of this myth serves as an allegory for Jin's journey, highlighting themes of acceptance and self-realization. The inclusion of Chin-Kee, a caricature of harmful Asian stereotypes, is provocative and controversial. By personifying these stereotypes, Yang forces readers to confront the damaging effects of racial caricatures head-on.

Gene Luen Yang's Narrative Techniques and Artistic Style

Yang's approach to storytelling in *American Born Chinese* is noteworthy for its seamless integration of text and visuals. The graphic novel format allows for a layered narrative where images complement and enhance the written word, making complex themes more accessible to a wider audience.

Visual Storytelling and Character Design

The artwork, crafted by Yang himself, employs a clean, expressive style that balances cartoonish elements with emotional depth. Characters are distinct and memorable, facilitating reader engagement with the narrative's emotional and cultural nuances. The visual juxtaposition of the three storylines—each with its own tone and aesthetic—creates a dynamic reading experience that underscores the novel's thematic contrasts.

Use of Humor and Satire

Humor serves as a crucial device throughout the novel, often used to diffuse tension or highlight the absurdity of racial stereotypes. However, Yang's satire is carefully calibrated to avoid trivializing the experiences portrayed. Instead, it functions as a tool for critique, prompting readers to reflect on their own perceptions and biases.

Impact and Reception in Literature and Culture

The significance of *American Born Chinese* extends beyond its literary merit; it has become an influential text in discussions of multiculturalism, representation, and diversity in young adult literature.

Reception by Critics and Educators

Critics have praised the novel for its innovative storytelling and cultural resonance. It is frequently included in educational curricula to facilitate conversations about race, identity, and inclusion. Educators value the novel for its ability to engage reluctant readers through its graphic format while addressing substantive themes.

Representation and Asian American Identity

Yang's work has been lauded for contributing to greater visibility of Asian American narratives in mainstream media. At a time when such stories were underrepresented, *American Born Chinese* provided a voice that resonated with many readers who saw their experiences reflected in Jin Wang's story. Its exploration of identity and assimilation challenges monolithic portrayals of Asian Americans, promoting a more nuanced understanding.

Comparative Context: American Born Chinese and Other Asian American Literature

When placed alongside other works of Asian American literature, Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese* offers a unique blend of myth and contemporary realism that distinguishes it from traditional prose narratives.

- **Versus Traditional Memoirs:** Unlike memoirs such as Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*, which use prose to recount personal and

family histories, Yang's graphic novel format allows for a more visual and symbolic exploration of identity.

- **Compared to Other Graphic Novels:** Works like Marjorie Liu's **Monstress** or Gene Luen Yang's later **Boxers & Saints** also engage with cultural heritage, but **American Born Chinese** remains notable for its direct engagement with the immigrant experience in an American context.
- **Intersection with Young Adult Literature:** **American Born Chinese** stands out in young adult literature for addressing racial stereotypes explicitly, a topic often underexplored in this genre.

Pros and Cons of the Graphic Novel Format

The graphic novel medium's accessibility is a significant advantage, particularly for younger audiences or those new to literary exploration of race. The combination of visuals and text helps communicate complex emotions and cultural references effectively. However, some critics argue that the brevity required by the format can limit character development or thematic exploration compared to longer prose works.

Legacy and Continuing Influence of Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese*

More than a decade after its publication, **American Born Chinese** continues to be a vital reference point in discussions about diversity in literature and media. Its influence is seen in the growing presence of graphic novels that tackle social issues and cultural identity.

Gene Luen Yang himself has become a prominent advocate for diversity in comics and education, using his platform to mentor emerging artists and promote inclusive storytelling. The novel's adaptation into other media, including a planned television series, signals its ongoing relevance and ability to connect with new audiences.

Through **American Born Chinese**, Yang not only created a compelling story but also opened a dialogue on the complexities of cultural identity and the power of storytelling to bridge divides. Its layered narrative, cultural commentary, and artistic innovation ensure it remains a cornerstone of Asian American literature and graphic storytelling.

[Gene Luen Yang American Born Chinese](#)

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gene luen yang american born chinese: American Born Chinese Gene Luen Yang, 2006-09-05 A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax. *American Born Chinese* is a 2006 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature, the winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album: New, an Eisner Award nominee for Best Coloring and a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year. This title has Common Core Connections

gene luen yang american born chinese: American Born Chinese Gene Luen Yang, 2024-01-11 Now a hit TV show on Disney + starring Michelle Yeoh! A tour-de-force by New York Times bestselling creator Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* is a groundbreaking graphic novel about race, friendship and the American Dream, with full-colour artwork. All Jin Wang wants is to fit in. But when his family moves to a new neighbourhood, he suddenly finds that he's the only Chinese-American student at his school . . . Born to rule over all the monkeys in the world, the story of the Monkey King is one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables . . . Chin-Kee is the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, and he's ruining his cousin Danny's life . . . These three apparently unrelated tales come together with an unexpected twist, combining unlikely friendships and Chinese mythology in a modern fable that is hilarious, poignant, and action-packed. *American Born Chinese* is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax. Don't miss *Lunar New Year Love Story*, Gene's heartwarming YA graphic novel, created with LeUyen Pham, about fate, family and falling in love. To best display the stunning illustrations, this ebook is in fixed format rather than the reflowable format of most ebooks. We recommend you download a sample to your device before purchase if in doubt.

gene luen yang american born chinese: *The Trickster Figure in American Literature* Winifred Morgan, 2013-10-23 This book analyzes and offers fresh insights into the trickster tradition including African American, American Indian, Euro-American, Asian American, and Latino/a stories, Morgan examines the oral roots of each racial/ethnic group to reveal how each group's history, frustrations, and aspirations have molded the tradition in contemporary literature.

gene luen yang american born chinese: *Multicultural Comics* Frederick Luis Aldama, 2010-09-15 *Multicultural Comics: From Zap to Blue Beetle* is the first comprehensive look at comic books by and about race and ethnicity. The thirteen essays tease out for the general reader the nuances of how such multicultural comics skillfully combine visual and verbal elements to tell richly compelling stories that gravitate around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality within and outside the U.S. comic book industry. Among the explorations of mainstream and independent comic books are discussions of the work of Adrian Tomine, Grant Morrison, and Jessica Abel as well as Marv Wolfman and Gene Colan's *The Tomb of Dracula*; Native American Anishinaabe-related comics; mixed-media forms such as Kerry James Marshall's comic-book/community performance; DJ Spooky's visual remix of classic film; the role of comics in India; and race in the early Underground Comix

movement. The collection includes a one-stop shop for multicultural comic book resources, such as archives, websites, and scholarly books. Each of the essays shows in a systematic, clear, and precise way how multicultural comic books work in and of themselves and also how they are interconnected with a worldwide tradition of comic-book storytelling.

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gene luen yang american born chinese: Young Adult Literature in the Composition Classroom Tamara Girardi, Abigail G. Scheg, 2018-08-27 Young adult literature holds an exceptional place in modern American popular culture. Accessible to readers of all levels, it captures a diverse audience and tends to adapt to the big screen in an exciting way. With its wide readership, YAL sparks interesting discussions inside and outside of the classroom. This collection of new essays examines how YAL has impacted college composition courses, primarily focusing on the first year. Contributors discuss popular YA stories, their educational potential, and possibilities for classroom discussion and exercise.

gene luen yang american born chinese: The Graphic Novel Classroom Maureen Bakis, 2014-08-05 Every teacher knows that keeping adolescents interested in learning can be challenging—The Graphic Novel Classroom overcomes that challenge. In these pages, you will learn how to create your own graphic novel in order to inspire students and make them love reading. Create your own superhero to teach reading, writing, critical thinking, and problem solving! Secondary language arts teacher Maureen Bakis discovered this powerful pedagogy in her own search to engage her students. Amazingly successful results encouraged Bakis to provide this learning tool to other middle and high school teachers so that they might also use this foolproof method to inspire their students. Readers will learn how to incorporate graphic novels into their classrooms in order to: Teach twenty-first-century skills such as interpretation of content and form Improve students' writing and visual comprehension Captivate both struggling and proficient students in reading Promote authentic literacy learning Develop students' ability to create in multiple formats This all-encompassing resource includes teaching and learning models, text-specific detailed lesson units, and examples of student work. An effective, contemporary way to improve learning and inspire students to love reading, The Graphic Novel Classroom is the perfect superpower for every teacher of adolescent students!

gene luen yang american born chinese: Comics and Migration Ralf Kauranen, Olli Löytty, Aura Nikkilä, Anna Vuorinne, 2023-03-31 Comics and human mobility have a long history of

connections. This volume explores these entanglements with a focus on both how comics represent migration and what applied uses comics have in relation to migration. The volume examines both individual works of comic art and examples of practical applications of comics from across the world. Comics are well-suited to create understanding, highlight truthful information, and engender empathy in their audiences, but are also an art form that is preconditioned or even limited by its representational and practical conventions. Through analyses of various practices and representations, this book questions the uncritical belief in the capacity of comics, assesses their potential to represent stories of exile and immigration with compassion, and discusses how xenophobia and nationalism are both reinforced and questioned in comics. The book includes essays by both researchers and practitioners such as activists and journalists whose work has combined a focus on comics and migration. It predominantly scrutinises comics and activities from more peripheral areas such as the Nordic region, the German-language countries, Latin America, and southern Asia to analyse the treatment and visual representation of migration in these regions. This topical and engaging volume in the Global Perspectives in Comics Studies series will be of interest to researchers and students of comics studies, literary studies, visual art studies, cultural studies, migration, and sociology. It will also be useful reading for a wider academic audience interested in discourses around global migration and comics traditions.

gene luen yang american born chinese: *Issues in K-12 Education* CQ Researcher,, 2009-11-02 *Issues in K-12 Education* is a contemporary collection of articles covering core issues within the broad topic of K-12 Education. The book is intended to supplement core courses in the Education curriculum titled Foundations of Education, Introduction to Teaching, Introduction to Education, and Issues in Education, among other similarly titled courses. The book progresses through a 3-part structure of topics generally covered in Foundations or Introduction to Education courses and texts: Issues in Justice, Equity, and Equality; Issues in Teaching and Learning; and Issues in School Environment. In total, we will have 19 articles.

gene luen yang american born chinese: *Teaching Graphic Novels to Adolescent Multilingual (and All) Learners* Kristine Gritter, Xu Bian, Deborah Van Duinen, Bill Boerman-Cornell, 2023-12-19 This book provides a roadmap for teaching with graphic novels as an effective and engaging approach to advancing reading comprehension for English Learners in secondary schools. Accessibly synthesizing and presenting existing graphic novel research, the authors walk through how to use graphic novels as a teaching tool to improve student motivation and key reading skills, increase their reading proficiency levels, and bolster their vocabulary. The authors provide curricular ideas for teaching multilingual, gifted, and striving readers, along with methods for developing critical literacy and multimodal comprehension. Applying a universal design approach and including examples, current graphic novel recommendations, and pedagogical strategies, this book is essential reading for pre-service teachers in TESOL and literacy education.

gene luen yang american born chinese: *Mixed Magic* Anna Katrina Gutierrez, 2017-07-26 *Mixed Magic: Global-local dialogues in fairy tales for young readers* considers retellings and adaptations from a 'glocal' context: a framework focused on the reciprocal and cross-cultural exchange between global processes and local practices and their potential transformative effects. The study examines an eclectic range of retellings from the East and West from the 19th century until the present, among them orientalised picturebook versions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Bluebeard*; Disney's animated classics; Asian versions of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*; Gene Luen Yang's graphic novel *American Born Chinese*; and the fantasy films of Hayao Miyazaki. Drawing on theories of globalization, cognitive narratology, subjectivity, and eastern thought, the book reveals new implications for intertextual analysis. This beautifully illustrated volume is the first sustained study of the effects of global-local and East-West interchanges on representations of self and Others in children's literature and folklore studies.

gene luen yang american born chinese: *Refractions of the Scriptural* Vincent L. Wimbush, 2016-02-19 *Refractions of the Scriptural* is a transdisciplinary collection of essays that seeks to construct a new field of scholarly inquiry with scriptures as a fraught category, analytical wedge,

and site for excavation and problematization. The book focuses on the ways in which individual and social bodies manipulate—and are manipulated by—the politics and power encoded in language and formalized canonical knowledge. Scriptures, in this sense, function as complex phenomena that are instrumental to social conservatism as well as social critique and social change. The essays in this volume, written by established and up-and-coming scholars across a wide range of disciplines, seek to locate, engage, and interpret the ways in which the scriptural shapes and reshapes people and the dynamics of identity formation. The chapters are organized around four domains or types of inquiry: the cognitive, the conscientized, the inscriptive, and the formative. It will be of interest to scholars of religion, as well as those interested more broadly in critical social and historical studies.

gene luen yang american born chinese: The Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Fiction, 2 Volumes Patrick O'Donnell, Stephen J. Burn, Lesley Larkin, 2022-03-01 Neue Perspektiven und aufschlussreiche Erörterungen der zeitgenössischen amerikanischen Belletristik Mit der Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Fiction: 1980-2020 präsentiert ein Team renommierter Geisteswissenschaftler eine umfassende zielgerichtete Sammlung von Beiträgen zu einigen der bedeutendsten und einflussreichsten Autoren und literarischen Themen der letzten vier Jahrzehnte. In aktuellen Beiträgen bekannter und neuer Autoren werden so unterschiedliche Themen wie Multikulturalismus, zeitgenössische Regionalismen, Realismus nach dem Poststrukturalismus, indigene Erzählungen, Globalismus und Big Data im Kontext der amerikanischen Belletristik der letzten 40 Jahre betrachtet. Die Enzyklopädie bietet einen Überblick über die amerikanische Belletristik zur Jahrtausendwende sowie einen Ausblick auf die Zukunft. In diesem Werk findet sich eine ausgewogene Mischung aus Analyse, Zusammenfassung und Kritik für eine erhellende Betrachtung der enthaltenen Themen. Außerdem enthält das Werk: * Eine spannende Mischung von Beiträgen bekannter und aufstrebender Autoren aus aller Welt, in denen zentrale aktuelle Themen der amerikanischen Belletristik diskutiert werden * Eine gezielte kritische Betrachtung von Autoren und Themen, die für die amerikanische Belletristik von wesentlicher Bedeutung sind * Themen, in denen sich die Energie und die Tendenzen in der zeitgenössischen amerikanischen Belletristik in den vierzig Jahren zwischen 1980 und 2020 widerspiegeln Die Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Fiction: 1980-2020 ist ein unverzichtbares Nachschlagewerk für Studierende und Doktoranden in den Bereichen amerikanische Literatur, Englisch, kreatives Schreiben und Belletristik. Darüber hinaus darf das Werk in den Bibliotheken von Geisteswissenschaftlern nicht fehlen, die nach einer maßgeblichen Sammlung von Beiträgen bekannter und neuerer Autoren der zeitgenössischen Belletristik suchen.

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gene luen yang american born chinese: Reframing the Perpetrator in Contemporary Comics Dragoş Manea, 2022-08-29 This book foregrounds the figure of the perpetrator in a selection of British, American, and Canadian comics and explores questions related to remembrance, justice, and historical debt. Its primary focus is on works that deliberately estrange the figure of the perpetrator—through fantasy, absurdism, formal ambiguity, or provocative rewriting—and thus allow readers to engage anew with the history of genocide, mass murder, and sexual violence. This book is particularly interested in the ethical space such an engagement calls into being: in its ability to allow us to ponder the privilege many of us now enjoy, the gross historical injustices that have

secured it, and the debt we owe to people long dead.

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gene luen yang american born chinese: Drawing New Color Lines Monica Chiu, 2014-11-01 The global circulation of comics, manga, and other such visual mediums between North America and Asia produces transnational meanings no longer rooted in a separation between Asian and American. *Drawing New Color Lines* explores the culture, production, and history of contemporary graphic narratives that depict Asian Americans and Asians. It examines how Japanese manga and Asian popular culture have influenced Asian American comics; how these comics and Asian American graphic narratives depict the look of race; and how these various representations are interpreted in nations not of their production. By focusing on what graphic narratives mean for audiences in North America and those in Asia, the collection discusses how Western theories about the ways in which graphic narratives might successfully overturn derogatory caricatures are themselves based on contested assumptions; and illustrates that the so-called odorless images featured in Japanese manga might nevertheless elicit interpretations about race in transnational contexts. With contributions from experts based in North America and Asia, *Drawing New Color Lines* will be of interest to scholars in a variety of disciplines, including Asian American studies, cultural and literary studies, comics and visual studies. *Drawing New Color Lines* makes an exciting contribution to the rapidly expanding inquiry at the crossroads of Asian American literary studies, graphic narrative studies, and transnational studies. Foregrounding the shifting meanings of race within, across, and between various national contexts, the fifteen essays in Chiu's collection explore the visual dimensions of Asian American transnational literary culture with originality and offer particular insight into the complexities of production, interpretation, and reception for graphic narrative. — Pamela Thoma, author of *Asian American Women's Popular Literature: Feminizing Genres and Neoliberal Belonging* An informative, smart, and necessary collection. *Drawing New Color Lines* investigates a growing and important field—transnational Asian American comics—with sophistication and breadth. — Hillary Chute, author of *Graphic Women: Life Narrative and Contemporary Comics* and *Outside the Box: Interviews with Contemporary Cartoonists*

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