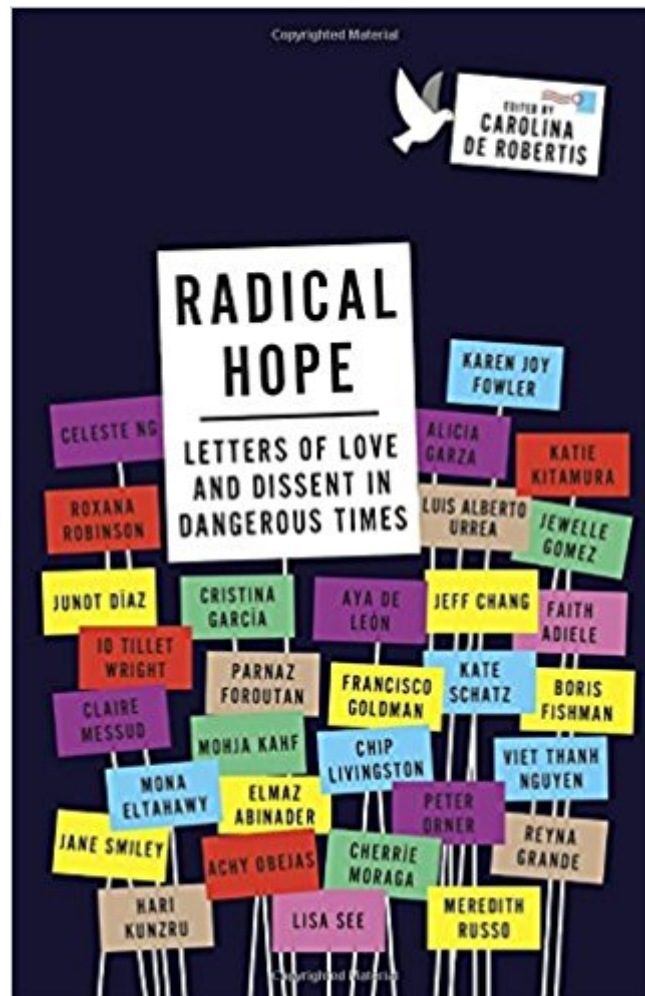


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Radical Hope: Letters Of Love And Dissent In Dangerous Times



Synopsis

Radical Hope is a collection of letters to ancestors, to children five generations from now, to strangers in grocery lines, to any and all who feel weary and discouraged—written by award-winning novelists, poets, political thinkers, and activists. Provocative and inspiring, Radical Hope offers readers a kaleidoscopic view of the love and courage needed to navigate this time of upheaval, uncertainty, and fear, in view of the recent US presidential election. Including letters by Junot Díaz, Az, Alicia Garza, Roxana Robinson, Lisa See, Jewelle Gomez, Hari Kunzru, Faith Adiele, Parnaz Foroutan, Chip Livingston, Mohja Kahf, Achy Obejas, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Cherríe Moraga, Kate Schatz, Boris Fishman, Karen Joy Fowler, Elmaz Abinader, Aya de León, Jane Smiley, Luis Alberto Urrea, Mona Eltahawy, Jeff Chang, Claire Messud, Meredith Russo, Reyna Grande, Katie Kitamura, iO Tillet Wright, Francisco Goldman, Celeste Ng, Peter Orner, and Cristina García.

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Customer Reviews

“This anthology is like the book version of a Justice League of superheroes: a collection of writers to guide us through tumultuous political times.” —Maris Kreizman, Vulture
“A glorious symphony. . . [Radical Hope] expands my idea of home, of hope [and] is just what I needed at this alarming moment in our country’s history; I know others will feel the same way. All of us could use a good shot of radical hope right about now. . . I can picture people carrying this book with them in a totemic way. And not just carry it—use it. . . The

inspiration found in these pages is evergreen. —Gayle Brandeis, San Francisco Chronicle —“This collection is a plea to defy the idea that positive change is impossible. . . . De Robertis’s contributors . . . replied to her call with diverse, eloquent, and unapologetic pieces that speak to the heart and underline the sentiment that the personal is political. . . . The overall message is one of radical connection and thoughtful activism. —Publishers Weekly —“I think I’m going to want to read this Baldwin-inspired collection yesterday, now, and through the conceivable future. —R.O. Kwon, Electric Literature, —“34 Books by Women of Color to Read This Year —“Timely. . . . [Radical Hope] provides some comfort, direction, and inspiration. . . . Many readers will doubtless find solace in the volume.” —Kirkus Reviews

Carolina De Robertis is the author of the novels *The Gods of Tango*, *Perla*, and *The Invisible Mountain*. A long-time activist, De Robertis spent ten years in the non-profit sector before publishing her first book, and during that time she led projects around issues including women’s rights, immigrant rights, and addressing sexual violence. She teaches creative writing at San Francisco State University, and lives in Oakland, California with her wife and two children.

Wonderful collection of letters that address our contemporary social scene in the US. At a time when I was struggling to find something positive in the daily barrage of negativity, this offers hope.

Great collection of letters very powerful and interesting and moving. Well put together by the author. Will be discussing for a book club and great source for conversation.

The most touching and moving anthologies of our times and challenges. Thank you so much for this collection of thoughts and feelings.

The 2016 Presidential election was difficult for many people to understand. While about a third of the nation voted for the Electoral College winner more Americans voted for another candidate and sadly about 42% of eligible voters didn’t vote at all. You might think that means that few people care about the final results but nothing could be farther from the truth. If you were one of those we felt very negatively about the results this collection of essays written as letters might offer you some comfort. Perhaps you prefer your close friends or family or your online communities for support. But if you are curious about how others feel or if you lack a local community to commiserate with, this

anthology offers 30 letters from academics, activists, and authors of different genders, races, ethnicities, and religions. The book opens with two introductory essays and concludes with a list of some of the signs from the Women's March on Washington in January 2017. The letters themselves are divided into three sections. Part One "Roots" has eight letters addressed to figures from the past be they historical players or family members. Part Two "Branches" has 13 letters addressed primarily to vague other people though a few have specific audiences. The 9 letters in Part Three "Seeds" are written to future sometimes a child the author is the parent or grandparent of, sometimes to future generations. If are you looking for facts about the election this is not the book for you. This is about the emotional reactions of people to that election and some of you may empathize strongly with.

This collection of epistolary essays (essays written in the form of letters) was collected during the weeks shortly after the November 2016 US Presidential election, a time when those who voted for the losing candidate (who actually won the popular vote but lost the Electoral College) were reeling, wondering if the US in which they grew up had somehow transmogrified overnight into an "opposites" version, where inconvenient truth (reports that accurately portray someone in a negative light) = "fake news," compassion is interpreted as weakness, common courtesy = impotence, and respect for those who have sacrificed all is scorn-worthy. Frankly, a lot of folks were petrified at what loomed on the horizon. Events since then have done little to dispel that apprehension. Enter Carolina De Robertis, who issued a call for letters to encourage and inspire those who were reeling from the outcome. Divided into three sections: "Roots," "Branches," and "Seeds," the letters cover much territory, addressed to individuals including ancestors (the "Roots" section), present-day individuals ("Branches") and future generations ("Seeds"). The basic message is "All is not lost." It may take awhile, it will require hard work to undo the damage inflicted by the constant stream of invective, falsehoods, scandal, and just downright "meanness" -- making scapegoats out of the most vulnerable members of society -- but there is always hope that American Democracy can be reinstated. Here's the thing, though -- many of the essays here and the messages they convey could be equally applicable to other seemingly hopeless situations in other parts of the world, no matter the adversaries or political situation. Yes, some of them make specific references to the events of November 2016, but the overall message of perseverance, dedication, and resilience applies to many situations, both personal and universal. It's worth a read, if only to understand some of the cultural impacts. A strong 4-stars -- I like it.

Radical Hope: Letters of Love and Dissent in Dangerous Times Interesting read. Think it is one that really can open up conversations during this time unlike any many have ever lived in before. Though not totally what I was expecting it to be I still gained a bit more understanding and hope after a few of the letters. Even if I might not agree with everything going on or even everything in this book it was a read that for me was worth it. I do agree that maybe could have been a bit more compact because a few of the letters do just say the same things. Overall it was ok and might be one I pull out later in life or even a book am glad I have years down the road.

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