



# Reinventing the Enemy's Language: Contemporary Native Women's Writing of North America

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From people who value stories and songs from literary traditions that are as encompassing and intricate as those of Europe, Reinventing the Enemy's Language is the most comprehensive anthology of its kind to collect the poetry, fiction, prayer and memoir from Native American women. It is about the process of writing and speaking that sheds light on what it means to be an Indian woman at the end of the century, as many nations - including the United States and Canada - are involved in the emotionally charged question of identity and place. Over eighty writers are represented from nearly fifty nations.

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### Editorial Review

#### From Library Journal

Coeditors Harjo (The Woman Who Fell from the Sky, LJ 11/15/94) and Bird (Full Moon on the Reservation, Greenfield Review, 1994) have put together a one-of-a-kind anthology of fiction, poetry, and memoir from over 80 Native women writers representing over 50 nations. Although nationally known writers such as Louise Erdrich, Linda Hogan, and Leslie Silko are included, many others are being published here for the first time. More than a collection of literature, this work is divided into four sections?genesis, struggle, transformation, and returning?to illuminate the writing process. Each writer introduces herself and her philosophical perspective about writing, and the willingness to share personal stories makes this a work of rare beauty, truth, and power. In addition, the anthology also highlights the writers' views on universal concerns such as violence against women, poverty, alcoholism, depression, government/Native American relations, and, especially, identity and place. Recommended for all libraries.?Vicki Leslie Toy Smith, Univ. of Nevada, Reno

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#### From Booklist

Harjo and Bird explain that the idea for this unprecedented and invaluable anthology grew out of a cycle of conversations among Native American women about their experiences as members of tribal nations, as Americans and Canadians, and as writers and community leaders. As editors, Harjo and Bird hoped to preserve the positive energy of these candid dialogues, and they have succeeded admirably, collecting more than 80 voices from Maui to Alberta, New Mexico to Michigan. Well-known writers such as Louise Erdrich, Linda Hogan, Leslie Silko, and Janet Campbell Hale are present, and so are the poetry, fiction, and memoirs of native women writers who will be new to most readers. Harjo and Bird have also gone beyond the purely literary realm and published the writings of such activists as Wilma Mankiller, Bea Medicine, Sonlatso Jim-James, and Winona LaDuke. *Donna Seaman*

#### Review

*I Study Rocks* by Jeannette C. Armstrong

*2 Months Rent Due And 1 Bag Of Rice* by Luci Beach

*The Serpent Story* by Salli M. K. Benedict

*I Will Bring You Twin Grays* by Marla Big Boy

*Rituals, Yours - And Mine* by Kimberly M. Blaeser

*Invocation: Navajo Prayer* by Grace Boyne

*Stillborn Night* by Beth Brant

*Rational* by Helen Chalakee Burgess

*It Has Something To Do With Final Words* by Gladys Cardiff

*As I Leave You* by Chrystos [pseud.]

*The Old Indian Granny* by Chrystos [pseud.]

*Moonlight* by Kim Cladwell

*The Change* by A. A. Hedge Coke

*Dancing With Rex* by Beth Cuthand

*She Ties Her Bandanna* by Beth Cuthand

*How To Make Good Baked Salmon From The River* by Nora Marks Dauenhauer

*Margaret/haskell Indian School* by Carolyn Marie Dunn

*Fooling God* by Louise Erdrich

A New Dream (wuski A-baw-tan) by *Jennifer Pierce Eyen*  
Dear Webster by *Connie Fife*  
Whale Song by *Mary Goose*  
Coyotismo by *Janice Gould*  
Connuche by *Catron Grieves*  
Pahkahkos by *Louise Bernice Halfe*  
Looking For Signs by *Dana Naone Hall*  
Perhaps The World Ends Here by *Joy Harjo*  
The Song Called 'white Antelope Chant' by *Suzan Shown Harjo*  
Presente by *Ines Hernandez-avila*  
Skin by *Linda Hogan*  
Old Great-grandma by *Nora Yazzie Hunter*  
Expect Nothing Else From Me by *Rita Joe*  
Confession by *Alice Lee*  
The Island Of Women by *June Mcglashan*  
Written In Blood by *Tiffany Midge*  
The Housing Poem by *Dian Million*  
Gia's Song by *Nora Naranjo-morse*  
Understanding Each Other by *Linda Noel*  
99 Things To Do Before You Die by *Nila Northsun*  
Two Standards by *Elise Paschen*  
For Thieves Only by *Lois Red Elk*  
You See This Body by *Marcie Rendon*  
The Endangered Roots Of A Person by *Wendy Rose*  
The Poet Haunted by *Wendy Rose*  
Tribal Chant by *Carol Lee Sanchez*  
When Sun Came To Riverwoman by *Leslie Marmon Silko*  
My Mother And I Had A Discussion One Day by *Denise Sweet*  
The Last Wolf by *Mary Tallmountain*  
What Danger We Court by *Luci Tapahonso*  
She Was Telling It This Way by *Laura Tohe*  
Hunter's Dance In Early Fall by *Debra Haaland Toya*  
Sisters by *Haunani-kay Trask*  
Indian Singing In 20th Century America by *Gail Tremblay*  
How I Came To Have A Man's Name by *Emma Lee Warrior*  
To Rose by *Roberta Hill Whiteman*  
Waning August Moon by *Roberta Hill Whiteman*  
Dry Rivers - Arizona by *Ramona Wilson*  
The Girlfriends by *Elizabeth A. Woody*  
Bury Me With A Band by *Ofelia Zepeda*  
Pulling Down The Clouds by *Ofelia Zepeda*  
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**Daryl Biddle:**

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