



YELL-Oh Girls!: Emerging Voices Explore Culture, Identity, and Growing Up Asian American

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In this groundbreaking collection of personal writings, young Asian American girls come together for the first time and engage in a dynamic conversation about the unique challenges they face in their lives.

Promoted by a variety of pressing questions from editor Vickie Nam and culled from hundreds of submissions from all over the country, these revelatory essays, poems, and stories tackle such complex issues as dual identities, culture clashes, family matters, body image, and the need to find one's voice.

With a foreword by Phoebe Eng, as well as contributions from accomplished Asian American women mentors Janice Mirikitani, Helen Zia, Nora Okja Keller, Lois-Ann Yamanaka, Elaine Kim, Patsy Mink, and Wendy Mink, *Yell-Oh Girls!* is an inspiring and much-needed resource for young Asian American girls.

YELL-Oh Girls!: Emerging Voices Explore Culture, Identity, and Growing Up Asian American Details

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From Reader Review YELL-Oh Girls!: Emerging Voices Explore Culture, Identity, and Growing Up Asian American for online ebook

Alexandra says

Not really a review, per se, but a suggestion. If you choose to read this excellent collection, don't skip the INTRO!! I confess, I have a bad habit of wanting to get to the good stuff myself and blazing past it! The intro reveals author Nam's own story very eloquently, and drives home the reason the book is needed in the first place.

DoomFist7 says

This article is so entertaining!.

James says

Asian-American girls are finally speaking up and letting their voices be heard - this anthology of poems, essays and stories by young Asian-American girls cover a full range of topics from culture (and clash of cultures) to identity, from family relationships to the changes they want to see and are realising right now.

The contributors' ages range from 15 to 21; their locations criss-cross America from Hawaii to New York City; their experiences are as multifaceted and unique as they all are. Although owing to the age of the contributors, some opinions and submissions are a little rough or repetitive, their grievances and their feelings are real and worth reading/listening to. Alongside the submissions that Nam received from all manner of young Asian women, she has also provided contributions from noted Asian-American women mentors, including Patsy and Wendy Mink and Helen Zia.

For a young Asian-American female reader, this anthology shows that they're not alone; for this reviewer, this was an eye-opening look at young people staking a claim for their future, celebrating their past, present and future.

Tee says

4 Stars. Some parts are really good, but a few are really bad.

The bad parts:

- 1) Some stories are repetitive
- 2) Some of them were, well, explicit. Especially one at the last section. It's not R-rated, but about PG-13.

I identified with a lot of the girls who wrote these stories.

I know how it feels to be regarded as an Asian in America and an American in Thailand.

I know how it feels to have some Thai people in Thailand treat me as a stupid American foreigner, and I know too well the stigma about not being able to speak Thai. Now I can speak, read, and write, but 1) I hate it when people assume I can't and 2) others like my sister don't like being insulted just because of that.

When I read this book, there were "aha!" and "me, too!" moments where I felt tremendous relief. I felt relief over the fact that other Asian American girls do understand. They do go through things I go through.

Aya Newman says

SUCH an important book for young Asian girls to read. I wish there had been more essays/poems about being mixed, but that's only because I'm mixed.

Rachel Chomsky says

For quarter 3 the first book I decided to read is Yell-Oh Girls! by Vickie Nam. I picked this book because it really looked interesting and cool to me and it looked pretty inspirational. Some things that I liked about this book were the different and powerful stories that all these Asian-American teenagers had to tell. Almost all of them talked about not fitting in the a normal environment because they weren't completely asian or completely american. Some things that I disliked about this book were that a lot of the stories didn't make sense some times and the author would randomly come in with little things that she wanted to say which made it confusing to know who was talking all the time and when the story stopped. Somethings that surprised me in this book were the way the these people treat their stereo-types. I always joke about how asians are perfect and amazing in school and I don't usually realize how much this hurts them and it really makes me think. Some things that could have been better is the way the book itself was put together and how the stories and summaries were laid out. Moving forward, some new kinds of books that I would start to read would be maybe books like these but in my opinion even though the book was not so well put together I still thought these stories were inspirational.

Angeline says

This book told me many stories about Asian American Girls and their different experiences no matter if they were good or bad. I learnt more about how these girls were stereotyped and how they felt about others and could really link to my current life. I learnt about how these girls felt about their own culture, country and how they look. I would recommend this book to Asians who want to if any other girls have the same experience as them, and also girls from other ethnicity as you would certainly be able to understand how Asian girls feel about being stereotyped and how Asian girls would like to be treated. I felt sad for some girls who returned to their country and are being outcasted just because they cannot speak their own language.

Helene says

Decent anthology of essays/writings by young Asian-Americans. I felt I could relate to most of the stories

written in the book, especially about identity. However, I felt like some of the essays were a bit whiny and confusing.

I did not like reading the last section, "Girlwind", because it was way too progressive for my tastes. Plus, some of the writings in that section didn't even seem to make sense/really have a point in the book. I applaud the girls who submitted their work to this book earlier this decade, but man...I'd sure like to see a new addition to this anthology and see how times have changed for the individuals involved in the initial round.

If there's a second book to add to the anthology, I would love to be part of it.

keatspring says

Cultural clashes, sexism, identity crisis, the ramifications of racism, this is what all the Meggys and Lizzs and Diyas have examined in this anthology of Asian American girlhoods. Their individual voices differ in tone and pitch, sometimes cynical and passive while other times a crescendo of words, demanding change and action. In their experiences they are not always harmonious but the voices always chime in unison when asked about their identity. The hyphen, the need to be a bridge between two (or more) vastly distinct cultures, the feverish desire to be accepted on both sides of the equation. East meets West, East=West. Harness the voices and fill that brimming potential by reaching out. It's Vicki Nam who has made this project possible, who has produced this collection of essays, stories, poems among other artistic works. For whom it's for: laugh and cry along with the girls, feel some general embarrassment and yes, sigh oh so I wasn't the only one-!! And scream like hell.

Offing a Tangent: By compiling a book for Asian Americans written by Asian Americans, is the editor unwittingly following the same separatist attitude the book is trying so very hard to overcome? To truly make her point, (that Asian Americans are not different from their American peers, simply another ingredient on its way into that bubbling, coalescing melting pot) the editor should have included some other voices as well. Tap, tap.

A few of my faves:

"We grow up being taught that all men are created equal. We are told not to worry because that statement implicitly includes us. We begin to wonder if Asians or women deserve more than they have received in the form of a few meager pages and minor footnotes in American history. We fail to take pride in our predecessors' contributions. We feel neglected in this melting pot nation. We almost melt away. We then try to be Asian instead. We fail. We remember that some great white man once said that all men are created equal. We want to be men and cannot. We feel condemned as the non-Asian, on-American race and the non-important gender. We are confused until we learn that there is a term that describes who are-Asian American women. We like it. We find comfort in each other. We find pride. We find the term Asian American women more in the American history we're making."

-Elizabeth

'Asia America' is a frame of mind, a spiritual place that is located neither in Asia nor America, but hovering somewhere above, between, and around the hearts and souls of the people who belong to it. Especially for those of us who were born here- we feel alienated in America and estranged in the countries our parents came from-Asia America is the closest thing to a place to call home."

Yuan Zhou says

I picked this book because i didn't have a book to read in class, but i didn't really liked this book because it's a book that is a collection of very short stories, so i didn't really like it. It could be better to have a bit more detailed stories about each of the girls so that i could know more about them. What surprised me was how there was even e-mails in this book because i didn't expect e-mails from girls through out the country, and this tells me that the author really put her time into this project, but i still don't like the VERY short stories i think that if it have more longer and detail tales then i would've enjoyed the book more. This book made me want to read a fantasy book because i realized that i didn't like books that are collective and i don't like short general stories.

Tran Y says

Read this book as a teenager when I first moved to USA. Very relatable.

A says

Phoebe Eng's intro to the book still makes this anthology stick out in my mind.

"[B]ig things can never been accomplished by sheer will and talent alone. Instead, it requires the collusion of hundreds of people who also believe in you, who want you to thrive, and will do what is necessary to lift you up to that place where, finally, you will have what you need to fly on your own."

Kat O says

I didn't like this as much as I'd hoped I would. I'm not sure if it's because time has passed since publication but it just seemed a bit dry and the book really dragged. select essays were great but then others felt really repetitive. Could have used more editing. love the rochester connection though

Kristin says

"People can't see me for me / That's the reality/... This is why I get offended when you ask me where I'm really from / This is why I fight for justice while obstacles continue to come / This is why I call myself Asian American / I am who I am, I be who I be / See me for me / Then you'll get the reality" writes 19 year old Olivia Chung, one of many powerful voices in *YELL-Oh Girls!* In this anthology, editor Vickie Nam pulls together the short stories and poems of Asian American girls and young women from across the United States. Through sections on identity, family relationships, stereotypes, finding one's voice, and advocating for change, compelling writers emphasize that Asian girls and women are not invisible and never alone in their struggles. I was fascinated by writers' experiences of the impact of racism, feeling like they didn't fit in in the US or their ancestor's country, and efforts to blend in with white society. I was frustrated by the power of negative depictions of Asians in the media and white standards of beauty. And I loved the reminder of the

importance of building community in the fight against inequality. I really enjoyed reading this book and I recommended it to everyone.

Jacey says

so perhaps I'm just not in essay-mode lately, but this book just didn't buzz for me at all. It's a collection of essays by young asian american women about growing up as such in the american landscape. There's only so far and deep a 15-19 year old can go in 1-3 pages so, for me, each essay, no matter how good, seemed a bit shallow and a bit repetitive (of the other essays in the book). I would have enjoyed it more if there were a greater range of ages, and lengths. There were s few standouts, but even those get lost in a book all about the same thing.
