

joy kogawa interview obasan

Joy Kogawa Interview Obasan: Exploring the Heart of a Powerful Narrative

joy kogawa interview obasan often serves as a gateway to understanding one of the most evocative literary works addressing Japanese Canadian internment during World War II. Kogawa's novel **Obasan** is not only a poignant historical account but also a deeply personal exploration of memory, identity, and resilience. Through interviews, Kogawa reveals the layers behind her writing process, the challenges of portraying historical trauma, and her intentions to give voice to silenced stories. Let's dive into the insights uncovered in a joy kogawa interview obasan context and explore the novel's enduring significance.

Who is Joy Kogawa and What is **Obasan** About?

Joy Kogawa is a Japanese Canadian poet and novelist whose work primarily focuses on the experiences of Japanese Canadians during the internment of World War II. **Obasan**, her most famous novel published in 1981, tells the story of Naomi Nakane, a young Japanese Canadian girl who, along with her family, endures the forced relocation and internment imposed by the Canadian government.

In a joy kogawa interview obasan discussions, she often explains how **Obasan** is semi-autobiographical, rooted in her own family's experiences. The novel confronts the silenced history of internment camps, the effects of prejudice, and the struggle to reclaim identity and justice. This background enriches readers' understanding of the novel's emotional weight and historical context.

Insights from a Joy Kogawa Interview Obasan: Writing About Trauma and Memory

One of the recurring themes in joy kogawa interview obasan conversations is how Kogawa approaches writing about trauma and memory. She emphasizes the importance of storytelling as an act of remembrance and resistance.

The Challenge of Narrating Painful Histories

Kogawa has shared in interviews that writing **Obasan** was both cathartic and challenging. She was aware of the responsibility to portray the pain and suffering of Japanese Canadians without exploiting their trauma. Balancing historical facts with emotional truth required sensitivity and care.

She explains that the fragmented narrative style in **Obasan** reflects the fractured memories of those who lived through internment, highlighting how trauma disrupts the

linear flow of recollection. This stylistic choice allows readers to experience the disorientation and loss felt by the characters.

Memory as a Political Act

In many Joy Kogawa interview obasan discussions, the theme of memory transcends personal recollection. Kogawa believes that remembering and telling these stories is a political act against erasure and denial. By bringing these stories into public consciousness, she hopes to challenge historical amnesia and encourage social justice.

Her interviews reveal that **Obasan** was instrumental in raising awareness about Japanese Canadian internment and contributed to discussions that eventually led to official government redress in the late 1980s.

Exploring Themes Through the Joy Kogawa Interview Obasan Lens

When analyzing **Obasan** through the lens of a Joy Kogawa interview obasan dialogue, several key themes emerge that resonate deeply with readers and scholars alike.

Identity and Displacement

The novel explores the complexities of cultural identity when uprooted by systemic injustice. Kogawa's interviews often touch on how displacement affects the sense of belonging, especially for second-generation Japanese Canadians like Naomi.

Kogawa discusses how **Obasan** reflects a search for identity amid loss, where characters grapple with balancing their Japanese heritage and Canadian upbringing in a society that marginalizes them.

Silence and Voice

Silence is a powerful motif in **Obasan**, symbolizing the suppression of Japanese Canadian voices during and after internment. In interviews, Kogawa explains that "Obasan" (meaning "aunt" in Japanese) represents the older generation's silence—a survival mechanism born out of fear and trauma.

Conversely, Naomi's narration signifies breaking this silence, reclaiming history, and giving voice to those who were silenced. This theme resonates strongly with readers who understand the significance of storytelling in healing and empowerment.

Intergenerational Trauma

Through joy kogawa interview obasan reflections, it's clear that Kogawa was deeply interested in how trauma reverberates across generations. The novel shows how the experiences of internment affect not only those who lived it but also their descendants.

Kogawa's interviews reveal her sensitivity to this ongoing impact and her hope that literature can facilitate dialogue and understanding between generations.

The Impact of Joy Kogawa's Work on Canadian Literature and Society

Joy Kogawa's **Obasan** is often credited with opening doors for more inclusive Canadian narratives. Through interviews, Kogawa shares her views on the novel's legacy and its role in changing how Canadian history is remembered and taught.

Raising Awareness and Educating Readers

Many educators and readers have discovered the history of Japanese Canadian internment through **Obasan**. Kogawa's interviews highlight her commitment to education and the power of literature to reach diverse audiences.

She mentions that initial resistance to the book's themes gradually gave way to wider recognition of the injustices faced by Japanese Canadians, illustrating literature's potential to influence social consciousness.

Influence on Contemporary Writers and Activists

In joy kogawa interview obasan conversations, Kogawa often expresses pride in inspiring a new generation of writers and activists who confront issues of racial discrimination, displacement, and historical memory.

Her work encourages others to explore marginalized histories and underscores the importance of bearing witness through art.

Tips for Readers: Engaging with **Obasan and Joy Kogawa's Legacy**

For those interested in delving deeper into **Obasan** or exploring joy kogawa interview obasan content, here are some helpful tips:

- **Read with Historical Context:** Understanding the Japanese Canadian internment and wartime policies enriches the reading experience.
- **Reflect on Narrative Style:** Pay attention to how fragmentation and shifting perspectives mimic memory and trauma.
- **Explore Related Works:** Kogawa's poetry and essays offer additional insights into her themes and motivations.
- **Engage with Interviews:** Listening to or reading Kogawa's interviews brings a personal dimension that deepens comprehension.
- **Discuss with Others:** Join book clubs or online forums to share perspectives and learn from diverse interpretations.

Understanding the Human Story Behind Joy Kogawa Interview Obasan

Interviews with Joy Kogawa reveal a writer deeply connected to the human stories behind her work. She speaks with humility and passion about the resilience of those who endured internment and the importance of honoring their legacy.

Through these conversations, readers gain insight into how literature can serve as both a memorial and a call to action. Kogawa's reflections remind us that behind every historical event are real people whose lives were irrevocably changed—and whose stories deserve to be told with empathy and respect.

Exploring joy kogawa interview obasan content enriches our understanding not just of a novel, but of the enduring power of memory, identity, and storytelling in confronting injustice and fostering healing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Joy Kogawa and what is her connection to the novel Obasan?

Joy Kogawa is a Canadian author best known for her novel Obasan, which explores the experiences of Japanese Canadians during World War II.

What are some key themes Joy Kogawa discusses in interviews about Obasan?

In interviews, Joy Kogawa often discusses themes such as memory, identity, displacement,

and the impact of internment on Japanese Canadians in *Obasan*.

How has Joy Kogawa described her inspiration for writing *Obasan* in interviews?

Joy Kogawa has explained that *Obasan* was inspired by her own family's experiences with internment and the silence surrounding that history in Canadian society.

What insights does Joy Kogawa provide in interviews about the historical context of *Obasan*?

Kogawa provides insights into the Canadian government's policies during World War II, the forced relocation and internment of Japanese Canadians, and the lasting effects on their communities.

How does Joy Kogawa view the role of memory in *Obasan* according to her interviews?

She views memory as crucial for healing and understanding, emphasizing the importance of remembering past injustices to prevent their recurrence.

What challenges has Joy Kogawa mentioned about writing *Obasan* in interviews?

Joy Kogawa has mentioned the emotional difficulty of confronting painful family history and representing the voices of those who suffered during the internment.

How has Joy Kogawa's interview commentary influenced readers' understanding of *Obasan*?

Her interviews have deepened readers' appreciation of the novel's historical significance and the personal impact of forced displacement on Japanese Canadian families.

Has Joy Kogawa discussed the reception of *Obasan* in interviews?

Yes, she has acknowledged that *Obasan* received critical acclaim but also sparked important conversations about race, memory, and Canadian history.

What does Joy Kogawa say in interviews about the relevance of *Obasan* today?

She emphasizes that *Obasan* remains relevant as it highlights issues of racism, injustice, and the need for reconciliation in contemporary society.

Where can one find notable interviews with Joy Kogawa discussing *Obasan*?

Notable interviews can be found in literary journals, Canadian media outlets, and video platforms such as CBC, The Canadian Encyclopedia, and university archives.

Additional Resources

****Unveiling the Layers: A Deep Dive into Joy Kogawa Interview *Obasan*****

joy kogawa interview obasan serves as a crucial gateway to understanding not only the narrative complexities of the novel **Obasan** but also the broader cultural and historical contexts it addresses. This interview offers an insightful exploration into Kogawa's motivations, thematic concerns, and the enduring impact of her work on Canadian literature and social consciousness. By examining the nuances revealed in this conversation, readers and scholars alike gain a clearer picture of how **Obasan** operates as both a literary achievement and a vehicle for memory and healing.

Exploring the Context of Joy Kogawa's **Obasan**

The novel **Obasan**, first published in 1981, is widely regarded as a seminal work that confronts the painful history of Japanese Canadian internment during World War II. In the joy kogawa interview obasan, the author elaborates on her personal connection to these events and how they inspired the creation of the narrative. Kogawa's own family experienced displacement and discrimination, which deeply informs the emotional core of the novel.

This background is essential for understanding the gravity of the themes discussed in the interview. Kogawa frames **Obasan** not merely as a story but as an act of remembrance and resistance against the erasure of Japanese Canadian history. The interview reveals her intention to give voice to silenced narratives, particularly those of women and elders, whose perspectives are often marginalized in mainstream historical accounts.

Thematic Depth and Literary Techniques

In the joy kogawa interview obasan, Kogawa discusses the novel's complex structure, which employs fragmented narration and shifting points of view to mirror the trauma and dislocation experienced by the characters. This non-linear storytelling creates a mosaic of memories that challenge traditional historical narratives and invite readers to engage with the process of recollection and identity formation.

The interview highlights several key themes:

- ****Memory and Silence:**** Kogawa emphasizes how silence functions both as a protective mechanism and a source of pain for the characters, illustrating the intergenerational effects

of trauma.

- **Identity and Belonging:** The struggle to reconcile Japanese heritage with Canadian identity is central to the narrative, reflecting broader questions of multiculturalism and assimilation.
- **Justice and Reconciliation:** The novel's engagement with historical injustice extends to contemporary discussions about redress and acknowledgment.

Kogawa also articulates the role of poetry and lyrical language in *Obasan*, underscoring how these elements enhance the emotional resonance of the story, providing a delicate counterbalance to its often harsh realities.

Insights from the Joy Kogawa Interview: Authorial Intent and Impact

The interview sheds light on Kogawa's creative process and her commitment to social activism through literature. She articulates a deliberate choice to write from a Japanese Canadian woman's perspective, aiming to disrupt dominant cultural narratives and foster empathy among diverse audiences.

Challenges in Writing and Publishing

Kogawa candidly discusses the difficulties faced during the publication of *Obasan*, including initial resistance from mainstream publishers who were hesitant to engage with such a politically charged and culturally specific story. This context is crucial for understanding the novel's eventual success and its role in opening doors for other minority voices in Canadian literature.

Furthermore, the interview touches on the emotional challenges of revisiting traumatic memories, a process Kogawa describes as both painful and cathartic. This honesty adds a layer of authenticity to the narrative, reinforcing the novel's function as a form of testimonial literature.

Legacy and Educational Relevance

One of the most compelling aspects of the Joy Kogawa interview about *Obasan* is the discussion about the novel's place in educational curricula. Kogawa reflects on how *Obasan* is used in schools and universities to teach about racism, injustice, and the importance of historical memory. She expresses hope that the novel encourages critical reflection and dialogue among students from diverse backgrounds.

This educational impact is further amplified by Kogawa's ongoing engagement with readers through talks and workshops, as revealed in the interview. Her role as a public intellectual extends beyond writing, contributing to wider conversations on multiculturalism, human rights, and the power of storytelling.

Comparative Perspectives: **Obasan** in the Canon of Canadian Literature

When analyzed alongside other works tackling themes of displacement and identity, such as Michael Ondaatje's **Running in the Family** or Margaret Laurence's **The Diviners**, **Obasan** stands out for its focus on a marginalized community often overlooked in Canadian narratives. The Joy Kogawa interview contextualizes this uniqueness by emphasizing the specificity of the Japanese Canadian experience while also addressing universal aspects of loss and resilience.

Unlike some contemporaneous works that adopt a more celebratory tone regarding multiculturalism, Kogawa's narrative insists on confronting uncomfortable truths. This approach invites readers to reconsider the complexities behind Canada's multicultural identity, making **Obasan** a critical text for discussions about social justice and historical accountability.

Strengths and Limitations Discussed in the Interview

The interview does not shy away from acknowledging the novel's challenges, such as its dense prose and fragmented structure, which some readers find difficult to navigate. Kogawa explains that these formal choices are intentional, designed to evoke the disorientation and fractured memory experienced by the characters.

On the other hand, the interview highlights the novel's strengths, including its emotional depth, poetic style, and unflinching portrayal of injustice. These qualities have contributed to **Obasan**'s enduring relevance and its status as a touchstone in Asian Canadian literature.

The Role of **Obasan** in Contemporary Discussions on Memory and Identity

The Joy Kogawa interview offers valuable insights into how the novel continues to resonate in today's socio-political climate. Kogawa articulates the ongoing necessity of confronting historical wrongs and the role literature plays in fostering empathy and understanding.

Memory as Resistance

Kogawa frames memory in **Obasan** as an act of resistance against forgetting and denial. The interview reveals how the narrative challenges official histories that have marginalized the experiences of Japanese Canadians, advocating for a more inclusive and truthful representation of the past.

Relevance to Modern Audiences

The interview also touches on the novel's relevance amid contemporary discussions about immigration, racism, and cultural identity. Kogawa stresses that while the context has evolved, the core issues of displacement, belonging, and justice remain highly pertinent.

Author's Vision for Future Engagement

Finally, the interview highlights Kogawa's hopes for *Obasan*'s continued impact. She envisions the novel as a catalyst for dialogue across cultural and generational divides, encouraging readers to confront difficult histories and foster mutual respect.

Through the lens of the joy kogawa interview obasan, *Obasan* emerges not merely as a literary artifact but as a living, breathing testament to resilience and remembrance. The interview enriches understanding by revealing the layers of intention, struggle, and hope embedded in Kogawa's work, underscoring its significance within Canadian literature and beyond.

[Joy Kogawa Interview Obasan](#)

joy kogawa interview obasan: Listening to Silences : New Essays in Feminist Criticism

Elaine Hedges Professor of English and Director of Women's Studies Towson State University,
Austin Shelley Fisher Fishkin Professor of American Studies and English University of Texas,
1994-09-22

joy kogawa interview obasan: Articulate Silences King-Kok Cheung, 2018-07-05 In this pathbreaking book, King-Kok Cheung sheds new light on the thematic and rhetorical uses of silence in fiction by three Asian American women: Hisaye Yamamoto, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Joy Kogawa. Boldly articulating the unspeakable, these writers break the silence imposed by families or ethnic communities and defy the dominant culture that suppresses the voicing of minority experiences. Yet at the same time, they demonstrate how silences—voiceless gestures, textual ellipses, authorial hesitations—can themselves be articulate. Drawing on theoretical works on women's writing, on ethnicity and race, and on postmodernism and history, Cheung takes issue with Anglo-American feminists who valorize speech unequivocally and with revisionist Asian American male critics who attempt to refute Orientalist stereotypes by renouncing silence. She challenges Eurocentric views of speech and silence as polarized, hierarchical, and gendered, and proposes an approach to Asian American literature which overturns the East-West or dual personality model. Yamamoto, Kingston, and Kogawa interweave speech and silence, narration and ellipses, autobiography and fiction as they adapt and recast Asian and Euro-American precursors. Drawing freely from both traditions, they reinvent the past by decentering, disseminating, and interrogating authority—but not by reappropriating it. A fresh and subtle response to issues relating to cultural diversity, *Articulate Silences* will be important reading for scholars and students in the fields of literary theory and criticism, women's studies, Asian American studies, and ethnic studies.

joy kogawa interview obasan: Estudios de filología inglesa Josephine Bregazzi, 2000

joy kogawa interview obasan: Canadá y la autobiografía contemporánea: Ondaatje, Kogawa, Blaise y Mukherjee Ana María FRAILE MARCOS, 2014-05-29

joy kogawa interview obasan: Imagining Justice Julie McGonegal, 2009 This book approaches political demands for reconciliation from the perspective of postcolonial literary criticism and theory, demonstrating that reading can have potentially radical social and political effects.--From book jacket.

joy kogawa interview obasan: Private and Fictional Words (Routledge Revivals) Coral Ann Howells, 2014-08-07 First published in 1987, this is an introductory study of the most widely read Canadian women novelists of the 1970s and 1980s. At its centre lies the question of how the search for a distinctive cultural identity relates to the need for a national cultural identity in the post-colonial era. Coral Ann Howells argues that Canadian women's fiction throughout the period of study represents how the Canadian cultural identity exceeds its geographical limits, and those traditional structures of patriarchal authority need revision if women's alternative views are to be taken into account. Including short biographical sketches and a complete list of the books published by the authors under discussion, writers examined include Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, and Margaret Laurence.

joy kogawa interview obasan: Literature and Ethnic Discrimination Michael J. Meyer, 2023-11-27 Even though universities and colleges make a concerted effort to foster unity and worldwide acceptance of different ethnicities by including politically correct literature in their curriculums, their attempts to protect students from being exposed to texts that portray discrimination and exhibit racial insensitivity are futile and ill-advised. Texts that contain biases based on otherness continue to be written and those produced in the past remain relevant and still demand the attention of an audience of reader. In order to see the full picture of the world in which they live, students must face even that which is uncomfortable and disturbing. To think otherwise is to create an academic environment that is totally idealistic and distorts the fact that ethnic discrimination has been a potent reality in every society in history and remains so today. These studies in this volume allow readers to meet writers from the traditional American and European canon while also being exposed to third world writers whose work may be unfamiliar. They include memoirs of Holocaust survivors and even record the silencing of Italian women, Apartheid in South Africa and tribal conflict in Nigeria as well as transplanted Asian culture in Canada and the idolization of the black body in Japan. The collection permits a viewing of the ethnic 'other' not merely in a politically correct way in which one samples the differences and nods approvingly. Rather its intent is to offer opportunities for contemplative assessment of authorial motives and goals, thereby engendering a wealth of understanding based on active engagement rather than passive acceptance of the status quo.

joy kogawa interview obasan: Asian American Autobiographers Guiyou Huang, 2001-05-30 Asian Americans have made many significant contributions to industry, science, politics, and the arts. At the same time, they have made great sacrifices and endured enormous hardships. This reference examines autobiographies and memoirs written by Asian Americans in the twentieth century. Included are alphabetically arranged entries on 60 major autobiographers of Asian descent. Some of these, such as Meena Alexander and Maxine Hong Kingston, are known primarily for their writings; others, such as Daniel K. Inouye, are known largely for other achievements, which they have chronicled in their autobiographies. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a reliable account of the autobiographer's life; reviews major autobiographical works and themes, including fictionalized autobiographies and autobiographical novels; presents a meticulously researched account of the critical reception of these works; and closes with a bibliography of primary and secondary sources. An introductory essay considers the history and development of autobiography in American literature and culture and discusses issues and themes vital to Asian American autobiographies and memoirs, such as family, diaspora, nationhood, identity, cultural assimilation, racial dynamics, and the formation of the Asian American literary canon. The volume closes with a selected bibliography.

joy kogawa interview obasan: *The Theatre of Regret* David Gaertner, 2020-11-15 The Canadian public largely understands reconciliation as the harmonization of Indigenous-settler relations for the benefit of the nation. But is this really happening? Reconciliation politics, as developed in South America and South Africa, work counter to retributive justice in order to redress the divide opened up between survivors and perpetrators as a result of historical violence. The Theatre of Regret asks whether, within the context of settler colonialism, this approach will ultimately favour the state over the needs and requirements of Indigenous peoples. Interweaving literature, art, and other creative media throughout his analysis, David Gaertner questions the state-centred frameworks of reconciliation by exploring the critical roles that Indigenous and allied authors, artists, and thinkers play in defining, challenging, and refusing settler regret. Through close examination of its core concepts – acknowledgement, apology, redress, and forgiveness – this study exposes the colonial ideology at the root of reconciliation in Canada.

joy kogawa interview obasan: *In Her Mother's House* Wendy Ho, 1999 Unwilling to see Asian American women silenced beneath the noisy discourses of feminists, cultural nationalists, and Eurocentric historians, Wendy Ho turns to specific spoken stories of mothers and daughters. Against reductive tendencies of scholarship, she places her own conversations with her China-born grandmother and her U.S.-born mother and her own readings of other Asian American women writers. She finds in the writings of Maxine Hong Kingston, Amy Tan, and Fae Myenne Ng not only complex mother-daughter relationships but many-faceted relationships to fathers, family, community, and culture. Always resisting the simplistic explanations, *In Her Mother's House* brings Asian American women's experience as mothers and daughters to the forefront of gender and ethnicity.

joy kogawa interview obasan: *Re-Writing Pioneer Women in Anglo-Canadian Literature* Conny Steenman-Marcusse, 2021-11-15 This study investigates the connections between nineteenth-century pioneer women in Canada and their putative twentieth-century biographers in Anglo-Canadian women's fiction by Carol Shields (*Small Ceremonies*, 1976), Daphne Marlatt (*Ana Historic*, 1988), and Susan Swan (*The Biggest Modern Woman of the World*, 1983). These three texts reveal definite problems in the formation of Canadian female identities, but they also revalorise the traditionally underprivileged halves of binary structures such as: female/male, other/self, body/intellect, subjectivity/objectivity, and Canada/imperial centres.

joy kogawa interview obasan: *Negotiating Identities* Helen Grice, 2002-10-11 *Negotiating Identities* is a study of the development of writing by Asian American women in the 20th century, with particular emphasis on the successful late 20th century writers such as Maxine Hong Kingston, Amy Tan, Joy Kogawa, Bharati Mukherjee, and Gish Jen. It relates the development of Asian writing by women in America – with a comparative element incorporating Britain – to a series of theoretical preoccupations: the mother/daughter dyad, biracialism, ethnic histories, citizenship, genre, and the idea of 'home'.

joy kogawa interview obasan: *The Canadian forum* , 1989-02

joy kogawa interview obasan: *Caught Between Cultures* , 2021-07-26 The essays in this collection (on Canada, the USA, Australia and the UK) question and discuss the issues of cross-cultural identities and the crossing of boundaries, both geographical and conceptual. All of the authors have experienced cross-culturalism directly and are conscious that positions of 'double vision', which allow the / to participate positively in two or more cultures, are privileges that only a few can celebrate. Most women find themselves "caught between cultures". They become involved in a day-to-day struggle, in an attempt to negotiate identities which can affirm the self and, at the same time, strengthen the ties which unites the self with others. Theoretical issues on cross-culturalism, therefore, can either liberate or constrict the /. The essays here illustrate how women's writing negotiates this dualism through a colourful and complex weaving of words - thoughts and experiences both pleasurable and painful - into texts, quilts, rainbows. The metaphors abound. The connecting thread through their writing and, indeed, in these essays, is the concept of 'belonging', a theoretical/emotional composite of be-ing and longing. 'Home', too, assumes a variety

of meanings; it is no longer a static geographical place, but many places. It is also a place elsewhere in the imagination, a mythic place of desire linked to origin. Policies of multiculturalism can throw up more problems than they solve. In Canada, the difficulties surrounding the cross-cultural debate have given rise to a state of “messy imbroglio”. Notions of authenticity move dangerously close to essentialist identities. ‘Double vision’ is characteristic of peoples who have been uprooted and displaced, such as Australian Aboriginal writers of mixed race abducted during childhood. ‘Passing for’ black or white is full of complications, as in the case of Pauline Johnson, who passed as an authentic Indian. People with hyphenated citizenship (such as Japanese-Canadian) can be either free of national ties or trapped in subordination to the dominant culture; in these ‘visible minorities’, it is the status of being female (or coloured female) that is so often ultimately rendered invisible. Examination of Canadian anthologies on cross-cultural writing by women reveals a crossing of boundaries of gender and genre, race and ethnicity, and, in some cases, national boundaries, in an attempt to connect with a diasporic consciousness. Cross-cultural women writers in the USA may stress experience and unique collective history, while others prefer to focus on aesthetic links and literary connections which ultimately silence difference. Journeying from the personal space of the / into the collective space of the we is exemplified in a reading of texts by June Jordan and Minnie Bruce Pratt. For these writers identity is in process. It is a painful negotiation but one which can transform knowledge into action.

joy kogawa interview obasan: The Literary History of Alberta Volume Two George Melnyk, 1998 In this, the companion to the landmark volume *The Literary History of Alberta, Volume One: From Writing-on-Stone to World War Two*, George Melnyk examines Alberta literature in the second half of the twentieth century. At last, Melnyk argues, Alberta writers have found their voice--and their accomplishments have been remarkable. The contradictory landscape, the stereotypes of the Indian, the Mountie, and the Cowboy, and the language of the Other, speaking from the margins--these elements all left their impressions on the consciousness of early Alberta. But writers in the last few decades have turned this inheritance to their advantage, to create compelling stories about this place and its people. Today, Melnyk discovers, Alberta writers can appreciate not only this achievement, but also its essential source: the symbolic communication of *Writing-on-Stone*. *The Literary History of Alberta, Volume Two* extends the study of Alberta's cultural history to the present day. It is a vital text for anyone interested in Alberta's vibrant literary culture.

joy kogawa interview obasan: The Bible in Asian America Tat-siong Benny Liew, 2023-04-26 In this issue of the journal *Semeia*, readers will find essays less concerned with what the Bible says about Asian American lives than by how Asian Americans read biblical texts. Pulling together Asian American historians, rhetoricians, sociologists, biblical scholars, and theologians, the collection questions assumed understandings and challenges accepted practices of established disciplines in ways that are both transgressive and transformative. Essays in the first section deal with the Bible's role in constructing Asian American identity. The second section delves into how the Bible is read and interpreted in Asian American literature and churches. The third section includes a response. Contributors include Antony W. Alumkal, Rachel A. R. Bundang, Patrick S. Cheng, Peter Yuichi Clark, Eleazar S. Fernandez, Mary F. Foskett, Jane Naomi Iwamura, Russell M. Jeung, Eunjoo Mary Kim, Jung Ha Kim, Uriah (Yong-Hwan) Kim, Tat-siong Benny Liew, Leng Leroy Lim, Fumitaka Matsuoka, Russell G. Moy, Henry W. Rietz, Roy I. Sano, and Timothy Tseng.

joy kogawa interview obasan: Confluence Narratives Antonio Luciano de Andrade Tosta, 2016-10-19 *Confluence Narratives: Ethnicity, History and Nation-Making in the Americas* explores how a collection of contemporary novels calls attention to the impact of ethnicity on national identities in the Americas. These historical narratives portray the cultural encounters—the conflicts and alliances, peaceful borrowings and violent seizures—that have characterized the history of the American continents since the colonial period. In the second half of the twentieth century, North and South American readers have witnessed a steady output of novels that revisit moments of cultural confluence as a means of revising national histories. *Confluence Narratives* proposes that these

historical novels, published in such places as Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, the United States, and Canada, make up a key literary genre in the Americas. The genre links the various parts of the hemisphere together through three common historical experiences: colonization, slavery, and immigration. Luciano Tosta demonstrates how numerous texts from the United States, Canada, Spanish America, the Caribbean, and Brazil fall into the genre. The book focuses on four case studies from ethnic groups in the Americas: Amerindians, Afro-descendants, Jewish Americans, and Japanese Americans. Tosta uses the experience of the American nations as a springboard to problematize the concept of the contemporary nation, an identity marked by border-crossings and other experiences of deterritorialization. Based on the exploration of “confluence narratives,” Tosta argues that the “contemporary” nation is not as contemporary as one may think. Informed by postcolonial theory and transnational and ethnic studies, this book offers an important comparative study for and of inter-American literature. Its analysis of the representation of cultural encounters within distinctive national histories underscores the complex nature of ‘otherness’ in the Americas, as well as the inherently transcultural aspect of a trans-continental American identity.

joy kogawa interview obasan: Second Arrivals Sarah Phillips Casteel, 2007 Diaspora studies have tended to privilege urban landscapes over rural ones, wanting to avoid the racial homogeneity, conservatism, and xenophobia usually associated with the latter. This book examines the work of various writers to show how it expresses the appeal that rural and wilderness spaces can hold for the diasporic imagination.

joy kogawa interview obasan: The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature Guiyou Huang, 2008-12-30 Asian American literature dates back to the close of the 19th century, and during the years following World War II it significantly expanded in volume and diversity. Monumental in scope, this encyclopedia surveys Asian American literature from its origins through 2007. Included are more than 270 alphabetically arranged entries on writers, major works, significant historical events, and important terms and concepts. Thus the encyclopedia gives special attention to the historical, social, cultural, and legal contexts surrounding Asian American literature and central to the Asian American experience. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and cites works for further reading, and the encyclopedia closes with a selected, general bibliography of essential print and electronic resources. While literature students will value this encyclopedia as a guide to writings by Asian Americans, the encyclopedia also supports the social studies curriculum by helping students use literature to learn about Asian American history and culture, as it pertains to writers from a host of Asian ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including Afghans, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, Iranians, Indians, Vietnamese, Hawaiians, and other Asian Pacific Islanders. The encyclopedia supports the literature curriculum by helping students learn more about Asian American literature. In addition, it supports the social studies curriculum by helping students learn about the Asian American historical and cultural experience.

joy kogawa interview obasan: The Routledge Companion to Asian American and Pacific Islander Literature Rachel Lee, 2014-06-05 The Routledge Companion to Asian American and Pacific Islander Literature offers a general introduction as well as a range of critical approaches to this important and expanding field. Divided into three sections, the volume: Introduces keywords connecting the theories, themes and methodologies distinctive to Asian American Literature Addresses historical periods, geographies and literary identities Looks at different genre, form and interdisciplinarity With 41 essays from scholars in the field this collection is a comprehensive guide to a significant area of literary study for students and teachers of Ethnic American, Asian diasporic and Pacific Islander Literature. Contributors: Christine Bacareza Balance, Victor Bascara, Leslie Bow, Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson, Tina Chen, Anne Anlin Cheng, Mark Chiang, Patricia P. Chu, Robert Diaz, Pin-chia Feng, Tara Fickle, Donald Goellnicht, Helena Grice, Eric Hayot, Tamara C. Ho, Hsuan L. Hsu, Mark C. Jerng, Laura Hyun Yi Kang, Daniel Y. Kim, Jodi Kim, James Kyung-Jin Lee, Rachel C. Lee, Jinqi Ling, Colleen Lye, Sean Metzger, Susette Min, Susan Y. Najita, Viet Thanh Nguyen, erin Khuê Ninh, Eve Oishi, Josephine Nock-Hee Park, Steven Salaita, Shu-mei Shi, Rajini Srikanth, Brian Kim Stefans, Erin Suzuki, Theresa Tensuan, Cynthia Tolentino, Thuy Linh Nguyen

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