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A Xicana Codex Of Changing Consciousness: Writings, 2000â€”2010



Synopsis

A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness features essays and poems by Cherríe L. Moraga, one of the most influential figures in Chicana/o, feminist, queer, and indigenous activism and scholarship. Combining moving personal stories with trenchant political and cultural critique, the writer, activist, teacher, dramatist, mother, daughter, comadre, and lesbian lover looks back on the first ten years of the twenty-first century. She considers decade-defining public events such as 9/11 and the campaign and election of Barack Obama, and she explores socioeconomic, cultural, and political phenomena closer to home, sharing her fears about raising her son amid increasing urban violence and the many forms of dehumanization faced by young men of color. Moraga describes her deepening grief as she loses her mother to Alzheimer's; pays poignant tribute to friends who passed away, including the sculptor Marsha Gomez and the poets Alfred Arteaga, Pat Parker, and Audre Lorde; and offers a heartfelt essay about her personal and political relationship with Gloria Anzaldúa. Thirty years after the publication of Anzaldúa and Moraga's collection *This Bridge Called My Back*, a landmark of women-of-color feminism, Moraga's literary and political praxis remains motivated by and intertwined with indigenous spirituality and her identity as Chicana lesbian. Yet aspects of her thinking have changed over time. *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness* reveals key transformations in Moraga's thought; the breadth, rigor, and philosophical depth of her work; her views on contemporary debates about citizenship, immigration, and gay marriage; and her deepening involvement in transnational feminist and indigenous activism. It is a major statement from one of our most important public intellectuals.

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Customer Reviews

When I heard that CherrÃ-e Moraga was releasing a new collection of her writings, I could not wait to get my hands on it. Moraga, one of the foremothers of the Chicana feminist movement, has been producing beautiful, revolutionary work for over thirty years now. Along with Gloria AnzaldÃa, she edited one of the classics of feminist literature, *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* (which unfortunately keeps going out of print). Now back with essays spanning the first decade of this century, it's obvious that Moraga has not lost her touch. There are a lot of recurring themes throughout *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness*. In the past decade, Moraga became a mother and has been living with her partner, visual and performance artist Celia Herrera RodrÃ-guez, and Celia's two children (Celia also created the illustrations in the book). As an activist, numerous events-from September 11 to the 2008 presidential election to the struggle to legalize gay marriage-have shaped her work. Her mother also grew ill and passed away during this period; as Moraga grows older, the longing to know and tell the stories of her ancestors deepens. She explores all of these parts of her racial, sexual, and feminist identity in the raw, defiant style I've long admired her for. Nostalgia, evolving consciousness, and the concept of (w)riting -writing to remember / making rite to remember / having the right to remember-lyrically permeate the pages of this book. Moraga's ideas have matured and become more profound with the passage of time; I look forward to reading more of her eloquent resistance and wisdom in the coming years.

Moraga does a good job including significant points in her life. Her passion is obviously spirited; however, she does have her strong stances and points which may not resonate with all audiences. That's not to say it isn't a good read. To each, their own I say.

A must have in Chicana Literature. It reveals her private life with her own partner and if you dig in you will realize that she went through hell as Ana Castillo's partner! A codex for life's journey!

Great collection of recent speeches and writings. Her reflections on the anniversary of the Third World Strike provide important messages and direction for the futures of Chican@ and Ethnic Studies.

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