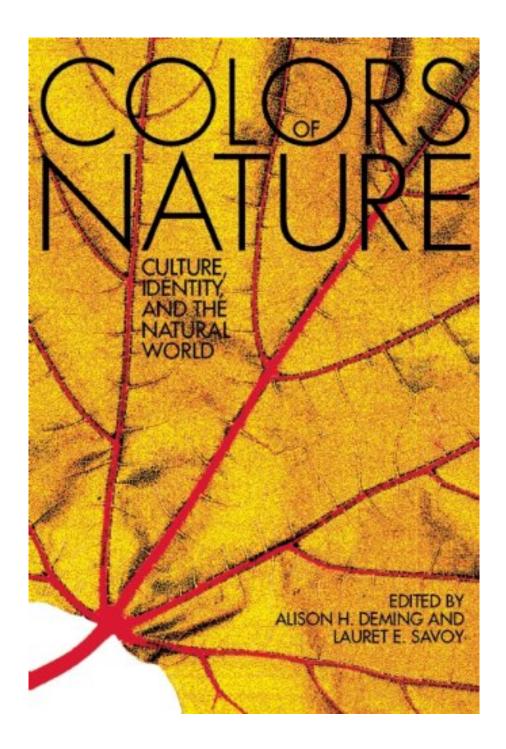


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Our perception of nature is a cultural construct formed in part by nature writing, which has long been dominated by Euro-American voices. The exclusion of writings by people of color about place, nature's wonders, and our species' uncanny ability to wreak havoc on the natural world has skewed and limited the genre, and cheated society out of a fuller understanding of the connection between social injustice and environmental destruction. Coeditors Deming, a poet and nature writer, and Savoy, a geologist, begin to remedy this omission with their unprecedented and invaluable collection of forthright and bracing essays by writers of "diverse cultural origins and disciplinary backgrounds." Jamaica Kincaid and Francisco X. Alarcon write about nature and imperialism in the "New" World. American Indian writer Joseph Bruchac writes about owls, turkeys, turtles, and protecting his ancestors' burial grounds from developers. Memories of her Kentucky hill childhood inspire bell hooks to portray nature-wise "country black folks," while poets and scientists ardently and knowledgeably discuss everything from parrots to ethnobotany, and environmental racism. A salient contribution to the increasingly important nature-writing canon. Donna Seaman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

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From African American to Asian American, indigenous to immigrant, "multiracial" to "mixedblood," the diversity of cultures in this world is matched only by the diversity of stories explaining our cultural origins: stories of creation and destruction, displacement and heartbreak, hope and mystery. With writing from Jamaica Kincaid on the fallacies of national myths, Yusef Komunyakaa connecting the toxic legacy of his hometown, Bogalusa, LA, to a blind faith in capitalism, and bell hooks relating the quashing of multiculturalism to the destruction of nature that is considered "unpredictable" — amongst more than 35 other examinations of the relationship between culture and nature — this collection points toward the trouble of ignoring our cultural heritage, but also reveals how opening our eyes and our minds might provide a more livable future. The Colors of Nature comes in four alternating-color covers: red, yellow, green, and blue.

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Beautiful and striking collection of nature essays

By k8simply

Judging by the lack of reviews, it seems few people are reading this collection of essays. That's a shame. I've assigned it to a class to read as we discuss how our identities shape the way we see and interact with the

environment. This collection gives voice to a lot of voiceless people and issues facing the U.S. and the globe. Each essay or poem here has a distinct style and perspective--those that are usually missing in conversations about environmentalism and what it means to live in harmony with the natural world. These essays challenge us to re-evaluate what the "normal" nature experience is like and force us to confront some ugly realities about the relationships between poverty, pollution, and people of color. Be advised there are two versions: one published in 2011 and the other published years before, and they are quite different. Beyond that, read this book if you enjoy nature writing or want some fresh perspectives on current environmentalism discussions.

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