

ADVANCE PRAISE:
Reading Tea Leaves After Trump
by Thelma T. Reyna

"This is a work of empathy in the best sense. Without apology, Reyna steps into the worlds of others and tries to feel her way into their pain, anger, and frustration, elusive as it might be. She animates Trump's base and reveals how their anguish and confusion were so easily mobilized by forces that didn't truly care about their well-being."

--Robin D.G. Kelley, Ph.D.

[From the Introduction]

Gary B. Nash Distinguished Professor
American History: UCLA

"If poets are the prophets of our age, Thelma T. Reyna is not only a prophet but a first responder to the Trump era. Placing her poems like bandages over bleeding lies and broken promises, Reyna soothes the pain of a nation in crisis as only a gifted poet can: with clear truth, righteous anger, and deep empathy."

--Cassie Premo Steele

National Award-Winning Poet
Author of *Tongues in Trees: Poems 1993-2017*

"Stunning, heartfelt and deeply honest. Reyna presents to us the forecast of an unfolding aftermath and beyond. Here you have the full impact of today's political landscape in a powerful poetic voice with gems like 'Crooked' so suitable for framing."

--Beverly M. Collins,

Pushcart Prize Nominee
Multiple Award-Winning Poet
Author, *Mud in Magic*

"Just one year inside our new Trump era, it is encouraging to discover a talented and courageous poet who, through diligence and grace, works to fulfill our immeasurable post-election need for catharsis. Writing in envisioned voices, Thelma T. Reyna reflects personas from both sides of the political divide as she sketches out the nation's quandaries.

No voice is too small. Empathy is engendered for immigrants, victims, even the First Lady. Reyna's natural lyricism stitches tweets into a memorable pastiche of triplet verse, invokes details of political fray, and paints the mayhem that has daily hit and twisted a double-edged sword into our nation. The voices here are distinct, painfully recognizable and unforgettable.

Tea leaves or not, this book is akin to a bloodletting, and with a carefully premeditated structure based on good psychological principles (the five stages of grief), our catharsis includes anger and tears but precludes weakening. This book offers our nation no proverbial Band-Aid, but rather, a tourniquet well-applied for saving lives, and released in a timely fashion."

--Carolyn Clark, Ph.D.

Writing Coach/Leader, The Writer's Center (MA)
Author of *New Found Land* (2017)