

We are not in an environmental crisis, [we] are the environmental crisis.

—Neil Evernden, *The Natural Alien: Humankind and Environment*

Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California Edited by Lucille Lang Day & Ruth Nolan

Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California is an anthology containing more than 250 poems about California ecosystems. The book is divided into eight sections corresponding to habitats: (1) Coast and Ocean, (2) Coastal Redwoods, (3) Hills and Canyons, (4) Fields and Meadows, (5) Desert, (6) Rivers, Lakes, and Lagoons, (7) Sierra Nevada and Cascades, and (8) Cities, Towns, and Roads.

The anthology includes Foreword by California Poet Laureate Dana Gioia, Introduction by poet and scholar Jack Foley, and poetry by 149 contributors including Ellen Bass, Christopher Buckley, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Camille T. Dungy, Ann Fisher-Wirth, Rebecca Foust, Dana Gioia, Rafael Jesús González, Emily Grosholz, Robert Hass, Brenda Hillman, Jane Hirshfield, Ursula K. Le Guin, Gary Snyder, and David St. John.

All profits from the sale of *Fire and Rain* will be donated to the following environmental organizations: Bay Nature, California Institute for Community, Art & Nature, Restore Hetch Hetchy, River of Words: Youth Art and Poetry Inspired by the Natural World, Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival.

Discussion Topics

- California is the most biologically diverse state in the country and one of the most diverse areas in the world, with a unique variety of landscapes and climates comprising 8 major ecological zones.
- Why are California ecosystems important to and celebrated by so many people from the U.S. and around the world?
- The 2017 and 2018 wildfires caused historic levels of destruction to CA's ecosystems; what is being done to help save and prevent future damage there?
- What are things the public can do now to help save California's many ecosystems?
- California tourism grew for a 7th consecutive year in 2017; what qualities of ecologic wonderment and vitality found uniquely there help motivate people to visit California?
- In *Fire and Rain*, California ecopoets contribute a valuable and sustainable body of poetry that is simultaneously environmental and environmentalist; how does this anthology demonstrate this and why is this collection of poetic eco-voices so crucial to our times?

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and Ruth Nolan*

Foreword by *Dana Gioia*
Introduction by *Jack Foley*

BOOK DETAILS

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Book of poetry

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About the Editors

Lucille Lang Day, coeditor of *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California*, has published 10 poetry collections and chapbooks, including *Becoming an Ancestor and Dreaming of Sunflowers: Museum Poems*. She is also a coeditor of *Red Indian Road West: Native American Poetry from California* and the author of two children's books, *Chain Letter* and *The Rainbow Zoo*, as well as a memoir, *Married at Fourteen: A True Story*. Her poems, essays, and short stories have appeared widely in magazines and anthologies, and her many honors include the Blue Light Poetry Prize, the Joseph Henry Jackson Award in Literature, two PEN Oakland Awards, and nine Pushcart Prize nominations. The founder and director of Scarlet Tanager Books, she received her BA in biological sciences, MA in zoology, and PhD in science/mathematics education at the University of California, Berkeley, and her MA in English and MFA in creative writing at San Francisco State University.

lucillelangday.com

Ruth Nolan, coeditor of *Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California* and a widely published writer/scholar whose work focuses on California's deserts, is a former wildland firefighter for the federal Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District. A professor of creative writing at College of the Desert, Palm Desert, California, she has received a Bread Loaf Environmental Writers Fellowship and a California Writers Residency Award. She is the author of the poetry book *Ruby Mountain* and essay collections *California Drive* and *Notes from the Gateway to Death Valley*, and editor of *No Place for a Puritan: The Literature of California's Deserts*. Her short story "Palimpsest," published in *LA Fiction: Southland Stories* by Southland Writers, received a 2016 Editor's Reprint Award from *Sequestrum Magazine* and was nominated for a 2016 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. She holds her MFA in creative writing from the University of California, Riverside. Ruth's newest poetry collection, *Badwater*, was named a finalist in the 2018 Hillary Gravendyk Prize poetry book competition.



Lucille Lang Day



Ruth Nolan

Media Contact: Leslie Barrett | leslie@prbythebook.com | 512-481-7681

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