

the genre, and it should attract the attention of those interested in narrative scholarship, agriculture, and theories of place.

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***Facing the Change: Personal Encounters with Global Warming.* Edited by Steven Pavlos Holmes. Salt Lake City: Torrey House, 2013. 173 pp. Paper \$14.95.**

With *Facing the Change: Personal Encounters with Global Warming*, Steven Pavlos Holmes offers a rich, refreshing, and much-needed collection of personal responses to climate change. As Holmes aptly explains in his introduction, “unlike most things that you’ve probably read about climate change, this book is filled not with science and politics but with stories and poetry” (1). Though the volume is slender, its selections of poetry and prose—written over the past 10 years by a variety of mostly lesser-known authors—provide a tonal and emotional diversity that makes the collection accessible. I used the book to great success in a first-year humanities seminar on climate change; the students connected more easily with the perspectives offered by the authors in this volume than they did with more traditional climate “experts” like Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein, or Al Gore. Of course, the contributors to this book are climate change “experts” in their own right, and as Holmes notes, these authors—diverse in age, profession, class, gender, and geographic location—are “our emotional and cultural first responders to climate change” (2).

The collection is organized in three parts, with multiple chapters in each, and though the editorial apparatus is minimal, the structure helps bring coherence to the selections. Part I, “Observations,” includes reflections on the local impacts of climate change. A short story by Malaysian novelist Golda Mowe about palm oil cultivation stands out as one of the most powerful and surprising, as it is written by the only non-US author included, and it provides an important counterpoint to the global north perspectives of the other selections. In contrast to the first section’s focus on the present, Part II,

"Generations," includes pieces that explore how climate change will affect future generations. Most interesting in this section are Julie Dunlap's essay on Aldo Leopold and her own experience taking her young son to a climate change rally, and Rachel Augustine's poem "Tiny Black Rocks," which Augustine wrote when she was a high school student. It is refreshing to have a collection that includes work not only by established authors but also by young and up-and-coming writers.

The pieces in Part III, "Revolutions," and particularly in the chapter titled "Twistings," are the most challenging and defiant in the collection. These poems and stories turn inwards to dwell on ugly feelings, such as confusion, guilt, and despair, and they subvert expectations about what a proper response to climate change and environmental collapse should be. This section is thus emblematic of the collection's most important quality: it does not prescribe what we *should* think or what we *should* feel about climate change. Instead, it presents a range of honest responses and leaves it up to us to weigh the possibilities.

The book's only significant limitation is its inclusion of mostly US writers. This skews the collection's overall perspective of climate change to that of the global north. "Personal encounters" with climate change from Massachusetts or Oregon would read much differently (and perhaps even more powerfully) in conjunction with personal encounters from China or Kenya, for example. With any luck, this collection should inspire a second volume or other similar projects (such as this special issue of *ISLE*), which create space for readers to reflect on the "more amorphous, individual, and emotional, even spiritual" dimensions of climate change (1). All told, *Facing the Change* should surely prompt many readers, young and old, academic and general alike, to consider fruitfully their own lives in the context of climate change.

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