Coming of Age
Around the World
A Multicultural Anthology

EDITED BY FAITH ADIELE AND MARY FROSCH

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PAPERBACK ORIGINAL • TWENTY-FOUR STORIES BY RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS CHRONICLE THE MODERN STRUGGLE FOR IDENTITY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE

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Contributors Include:
Patrick Chamoiseau
Guadalupe Dueñas
Alexandra Fuller
Oonya Kempadoo
Rohinton Mistry
Chang-rae Lee
Colum McCann
Ben Okri
Marjane Satrapi
Hanan al-Shakyh

Following in the footsteps of the highly successful Coming of Age in America, this collection of 24 stories from around the world is a wonderful introduction to literature rarely available to American readers. Editors Faith Adiele and Mary Frosch magnificently chart the global quest for identity, and make a strong case for the personal and political importance of sharing our stories as they consider whether coming of age is a Western—or universal—concept.

Featuring an array of voices from every continent, this anthology includes luminaries like Ben Okri and Chang-rae Lee, as well as recent bestsellers Marjane Satrapi and Alexandra Fuller, in addition to a variety of authors renowned abroad but less well-known to North American audiences. The diversity extends to form, encompassing fiction and memoir, graphics, lyric prose, and tales in pidgin and patois.

The world presented is complex and current, some inhabitants routinely switching country and language, others trapped by global events that shape us all. Detailed introductions provide historical and cultural context, particularly for Africa and the Muslim world.

Faith Adiele received the PEN Beyond Margins Award for her memoir about coming of age in Thailand, Meeting Faith: The Forest Journals of a Black Buddhist Nun (W.W. Norton). She is also the writer (and subject) of My Journey Home, a PBS documentary about growing up Nigerian/Nordic-American. She resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she is a professor of creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh. Mary Frosch is the editor of Coming of Age in America (The New Press). For twenty-four years she has taught at the Spence School in New York, where she designed a world literature curriculum and helped implement the multicultural literature program. She divides her time between New York City and Santa Monica, California.
In any educational environment, it is essential that educators provide their students with the means to think broadly and intelligently about the world in which we live. That being said, why is it that a mere 6% of all international literature is translated into English? It seems that without exposure to the voices of the world, it should be next to impossible for American readers to truly be informed about the issues at hand around the globe. Students who only have access to a small percentage of international literature are missing out on the diverse worldview that foreign authors can offer them. This is why award-winning authors Faith Adiele and Mary Frosch were so eager to put together their anthology, *Coming of Age Around the World: A Multicultural Anthology*.

Each author featured in this groundbreaking anthology brings a different viewpoint to the challenges and complications presented by growing up. Featuring an array of voices from every continent, this anthology includes luminaries like Ben Okri and Chang-rae Lee, as well as recent bestsellers Marjane Satrapi and Alexandra Fuller, and a variety of authors well-known abroad but new to North American readers. The diversity extends to form, encompassing fiction and memoir, graphics, lyric prose, and tales in pidgin and patois.

The world presented is complex and current, some inhabitants routinely switching country and language, others trapped by events that shaped our world today. Detailed introductions provide historical and cultural context, particularly to Africa and the Muslim world.

Consisting of both fiction and nonfiction, the stories in the anthology are organized by theme, giving teachers different options for course organization. In addition, each contains a detailed introduction, as mentioned above, that teaches readers about the author, and the context surrounding the story.

Finally, nearly all the stories in *Coming of Age Around the World* are contemporary, all written after 1975, making the issues they discuss viable to today’s world. Students will relate to the interesting international issues discussed by their foreign coming of age counterparts. The opportunities for integrating this anthology into world literature, multicultural literature, comparative literature, world cultures, international studies, cultural studies, English writing, creative writing, autobiography international studies, global education, and study abroad classes are endless.