

“PERHAPS IT WAS SIMPLER THAN THAT—A SINGLE UNFOLDING, SO THAT FLESH COULD HANG FROM BONE, AND THE SPIRIT UNHINGE ITSELF FROM THE BODY.”

American Symphony is a portrait of a portrait, a mirror's reflection of someone that's gone missing, a speculative memoir that takes cues and challenges from works by Kathy Acker, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, and Jenny Zhang. S has made it her duty to be the editor, piecing together how ! had disappeared, picking apart the words that ! had left behind in hopes of discovering what went wrong. Through a captivating assemblage of literary pieces, S solves the puzzle, inadvertently creating an impression of what people remember most of the missing and the dead. Melancholic and bravely honest, Suiyi Tang has achieved something thought to be impossible, taking linguistic fortitude and bending it into a new shape, achieving new emotional heights.

“ Where in the American literary landscape has there been a place for a text like [this]? Here is the work of an Asian American female millennial—fiercely intellectual; embodied; by turns, **exuberant and melancholic**, artistic and theoretical, personal and political—that deserves to be read and heard amid and beyond the usual cacophony of praise for young white writerly yearnings. / In a voice that is wry, shattered, and undeniable, *American Symphony* takes a torch to the myths of the “model minority,” the available female “Oriental” sex object, and the technically-brilliant-but-not-creative “Asian” while also ripping through the raced and gendered lies undergirding our ideas of nation and aesthetics.

A brilliant debut.

—DOROTHY WANG, author of *Thinking Its Presence: Form, Race, and Subjectivity in Contemporary Asian American Poetry*

[A]n existential travelogue... if only we could unshackle ourselves from the conditions of our era, our origins, even our memories. Tang's prose is at once **futuristic yet**

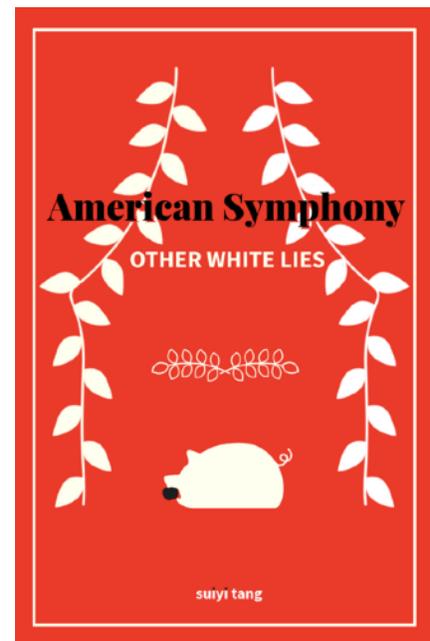
nostalgic, deeply interior yet fantastical, and freely associative in search of **its**

own set of truths. The worlds Tang has built linger, and their insistent weight is sure to incite revelations big and small. —GRACE SHUYI LIEW, author of *Careen*

American Symphony: Other White Lies

by Suiyi Tang

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