American Symphony: Other White Lies

by Suiyi Tang

Experimental Fiction / Speculative Memoir / Hybrid / Asian-American

Suiyi Tang is the editor of SPHINXX and a student of literature and American studies at Williams College, where she is at work building an archive of ballpoints and prophetic clicks. Previous works can be found in Entropy, Fanzine, The Poetry Project, Cosmonauts Ave, Winter Tangerine, and others. You can find her at @tangsuiyi or legitimizedinprint.com

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

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