

ABOUT THE BOOK

“Short, Vigorous Roots: A Contemporary Flash Fiction Anthology of Migrant Voices” by Mark Budman and Susan O’Neill blurs the line between imagination and reality in these 40 poignant pieces written by first- and second-generation immigrant authors.

Giving a glimpse into the immense loss of oneself and the strange beauty of rediscovery, this collection explores a diverse map of migrant experiences; these. The stories confirm that not all plants grow with deep roots in the ground, yet they flourish nonetheless. Global voices interweave and tangle together themes of humanity and identity with stories that thrive when read adventitiously – in the moments between other moments.

Regardless of their origin, the authors all share the experience of putting down roots in new soil. Each story examines how adapting to new lives and lands impacts the author’s characters’ understanding of themselves and their community. At 1,000 words or fewer, every vignette redefines resilience and the meaning of home; the intensity of each is captivating from the very first line.

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

“Short, Vigorous Roots” depicts the complexities of migration in an accessible way. Readers who are migrants or who come from migrant families will enjoy seeing themselves represented authentically. in an authentic way. These glimpses into scenes of migrants’ lives the lives of migrants use varying writing styles, character types and settings to highlight reflections around culture, family, identity, frustration and home, e, from the authors’ own voices.

Literary fiction and flash fiction enthusiasts will find satisfaction in reading this compilation either in sections or all at once, as each story is a unique entity. Readers will find strong and complex protagonists who include marginalized peoples. The reading se stories will catch the attention of adults with different cultural, political and educational backgrounds.

The collection, which captures different moments of young and old migrants, sheds light on current and relevant events in the global news cycles and humanitarian issues. Within affecting flash fiction stories, readers find visceral accounts of compassion, faith, fear, guilt, survival, vulnerability and truth.

was even a lounge singer. She now lives in Brooklyn with her husband Paul, whom she met in Vietnam fifty years ago, and writes, edits and mentors aspiring authors as a freelancer. Her website and essay blog can be found at susanoneill.us.

PRAISE

"Lives are made out of strings of minutes. Like a freshwater pearl, each is slightly different from the ones flanking it. The inner worlds of the contributors to 'Short, Vigorous Roots' intersect with the physical worlds they inhabit and the casts of characters that leave their mark on the dynamics of each moment. The common denominator of the writers whose works appear as brief fictional anecdotes in this literary collection is that they all come from elsewhere. Through the prisms of their old lives and locales, they now view past and present moments, aspirations, and challenges with both frustration and awe as they chart new lives in the U.S. Together, their fascinating stories weave together a rich tapestry that is today's America."

– **Talia Carner, author of *The Third Daughter* and others**

"Unique, eclectic, emotional...-A highly recommended read that helps one understand the complexities of individuals who make up the cultural mosaic of a country."

– **Christine Ho Younghusband, Ed.D., University of Northern British Columbia**

"The reader is transported to foreign lands through stunning narration and description...part travel writing, part historical artifact, part emotional appeal for a new world humanity, these stories capture poignant details from immigrants young and old."

– **Patricia Murphy, author of *Bully Love***

"An artfully arranged collection of masterful stories that resonate with the essential truths of our time."

– **Dzvinia Orlowsky, author of *Bad Harvest* and others**

"If history rhymes, then this collection is a chorus for its time."

– **Val Vinokur, Poets & Traitors Press**

"A gem of global literature...These stories open horizons through content and style to the intimate moments and life experiences of generations on the move and allow us insight into the destinies and lives taking place next to us that so often go unknown and unnoticed."

– **Nicole Witt, International Literary Agent**

"When a collective silence is broken, thunder. 'Short, Vigorous Roots' is beautiful, necessary thunder. A collection that takes and gives breath."

– **Junot Diaz, author of *Drown* and others**