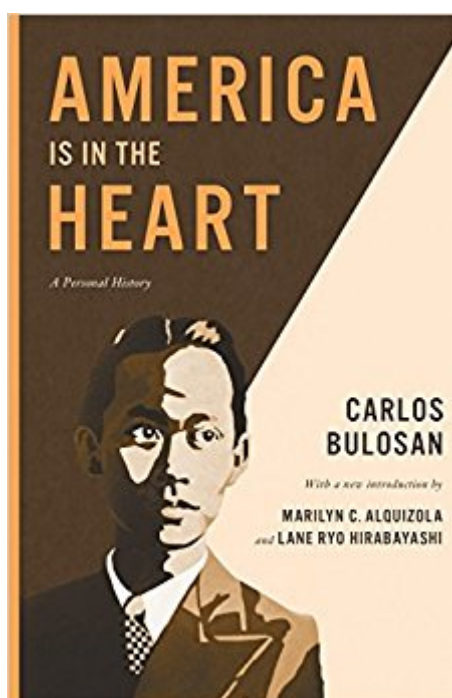


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America Is In The Heart: A Personal History (Classics Of Asian American Literature)



Synopsis

First published in 1943, this classic memoir by well-known Filipino poet Carlos Bulosan describes his boyhood in the Philippines, his voyage to America, and his years of hardship and despair as an itinerant laborer following the harvest trail in the rural West. Replaced by ISBN 9780295993539

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"America came to him in a public ward in the Los Angeles County Hospital while around him men died gasping for their last bit of air, and he learned that while America could be cruel it could also be immeasurably kind. . . . For Carlos Bulosan no lifetime could be long enough in which to explain to America that no man could destroy his faith in it again. He wanted to contribute something toward the final fulfillment of America. So he wrote this book that holds the bitterness of his own blood." — Carlos P. Romulo, New York Times

"Bulosan's gripping memoir-novel of a young Filipino immigrant long ago secured its place in Asian American literature. . . . An outstanding introductory essay extends the historical discussion (and in some ways brings it full circle) in this third edition. . . . [Bulosan's] call to action resonates with the same urgency today as it did seven decades ago." — Greg Lewis, Pacific Northwest Quarterly

"The premier text of the Filipino-American experience." — Greg Castilla

Such an important work about the Filipino American experience, yet such a huge disappointment in Audiobook form. The narrator doesn't seem to have a strong enough grasp of the English language to make sense of the text, in many places. He slows down to sound out multisyllabic words, and it's filled with mispronunciations and what seemed to me to be a lack of understanding which words were the subject and which were the object of the sentence. Furthermore, the narrator doesn't do much to vocally distinguish between the characters when they are speaking to one another. This made some of the dialogue difficult to follow, as even a little more vocal range would have done wonders to add depth to the characters. This really pulled me out of the story, as I had to rewind and listen to certain parts over and over to understand what the author had intended, since that was not communicated clearly by the speaker. Having been raised in a Filipino household, by parents who are Filipino immigrants, I thought my ear would be better tuned to the Filipino accent and its common idiosyncratic English pronunciations. Even then it was increasingly frustrating, especially 12 hours and 10 discs later. I mean no disrespect to those who, like in the story, have struggled to learn English as immigrants, but I wish the producers of this audiobook had done their due diligence in honoring this significant text with a narrator who could express the poetry and depth of the words rather than struggle to make sense of them.

Made me realize and appreciate my Dad and my uncles went thru in order for his family. What is amazing is that he never talked bad about white america. No bitterness. He came here in 1926 at 16 years old, my father was a amazing man, and for that, I thank Carlos Busan.

Interesting subject matter of a first generation Filipino-American making his way, but it was fairly easy read and somehow I kept imagining the author as monotone - probably just a "me problem".

This was an excellent book on what it was like to be Filipino in America. It's a little crude sometimes but accurate. Good read either way. I had to read this for a college American History course. I've never read anything on Asian American history so it was refreshing.

Carlos Bulosan was a filipino writer that immigrated to the United States, specifically the west coast. This book brought me back to the neighborhood I currently live in Echo Park, which is adjacent to the current Historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles. I got to read about the conditions and life during the 30s and the struggles of all immigrants during that time. A must read for Filipino-Americans!

For anyone with an interest in Asian-American social or labor history, Bulosan's book is an important one. It brings to light the struggles of a community often lumped together with the Asian "middleman" in minority hierarchies. While everyone knows of Cesar Chavez, so few know the heroes of Filipino American history. Bulosan's book is an approachable start to changing this.

I learned about this author for the first time on a TV educational channel that was discussing John Steinbeck's work. This a beautifully written book by a Filipino emigrant poet about what it like to come to the U.S., to work in the fields of California harvesting fruit and vegetables, and what it was like to be discriminated against during the 1930's and 1940's. Carlos Bulosan writes from experience about a time and place that John Steinbeck only witnessed.

Awesome Book! y'all need to read it to appreciate it....

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