



## Hope Nation: YA Authors Share Personal Moments of Inspiration

*Rose Brock (Editor) , Atia Abawi (Contributor) , Howard Bryant (Contributor) , Ally Carter (Contributor) , Ally Condie (Contributor) , Christina Diaz Gonzalez (Contributor) , Romina Garber (Contributor) , I.W. Gregorio (Contributor) , more... Kate Hart (Contributor) , Brendan Kiely (Contributor) , Alex London (Contributor) , Marie Lu (Contributor) , Renée Ahdieh (Contributor) , Jason Reynolds (Contributor) , Nic Stone (Contributor) , Angie Thomas (Contributor) , Jenny Torres Sanchez (Contributor) , Nicola Yoon (Contributor) , Gayle Forman (Contributor) , David Levithan (Contributor) , Jeff Zentner (Contributor) , Aisha Saeed (Contributor) , James Dashner (Contributor) , Libba Bray (Contributor) , Julie Murphy (Contributor) ...less*

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**Hope is a decision, but it is a hard one to recognize in the face of oppression, belittlement, alienation, and defeat. To help embolden hope, here is a powerhouse collection of essays and letters that speak directly to teens and all YA readers. Featuring Marie Lu, James Dashner, Gayle Forman, David Levithan, Julie Murphy, Jeff Zentner, Renee Ahdieh, and many more!**

*"The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood."--Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

We all experience moments when we struggle to understand the state of the world, when we feel powerless and--in some cases--even hopeless. The teens of today are the caretakers of tomorrow, and yet it's difficult for many to find joy or comfort in such a turbulent society. But in trying times, words are power.

Some of today's most influential young adult authors come together in this highly personal nonfiction collection of essays, poems, and letters, each a first-hand account that ultimately strives to inspire hope.

Like a modern day *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* or *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens*, *Hope Nation* acknowledges the pain and shines a light on what comes after.

**Authors include:** Marie Lu, David Levithan, Gayle Forman, Renee Ahdieh, Alex London, Julie Murphy, James Dashner, Christina Diaz Gonzalez, Sarah Mlynowski, Jeff Zentner, Ally Condie, Jenny Torres Sanchez, Romina Russell, Angie Thomas, Howard Bryant, Aisha Saeed, Margaret Stohl, Ally Carter, Nic Stone, I.W.Gregorio, Kate Hart, Atia Abawi, Libba Bray

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## From Reader Review Hope Nation: YA Authors Share Personal Moments of Inspiration for online ebook

### Trisha says

Moving. Every story spoke to me.

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### Stacey says

There's so much to hold on to in this book. It's a light in a time when things seem darkest. A reminder to keep fighting, keep resisting, keep hoping. And even more than hope, ACT. If you have hope things will change, be courageous enough to help move things in the direction you want them to go.

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### Potato says

Before reading this book, I hadn't really given much thought on what hope truly was. For me, hope was just a feeling. Hope was just a concept - maybe a strength that kept us going in bad times. It never occurred to me that hope could be like a torch - a light that guided us even in the darkest of times. I read this book thinking it would be a bit cheesy, or sappy.

Oh, how wrong I was.

It was amazing. I loved everything about it. It was just... stunning, that's what it was. I've heard about books and stories being windows and mirrors, shining light upon a viewpoint or experience you've never experienced or thought about.

The YA writers who have written the books we all read are now sharing their own tales of hope. I loved reading each of their tales. I loved reading about their experiences. Their tales were all so thoughtful and mesmerizing and I just couldn't stop reading it! Each story was unique, and each story made me think deeper and deeper about hope and how it united us all.

I am 100% sure you will enjoy this book. This book is just fantastic!

Please do read this book. Each story was so intriguing I could not stop reading! I hope you enjoy this book!

Happy reading!

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### Zinnia Bayardo says

My #1 favorite for 2018, so far! Every teen should read this one!

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### Sarah Ressler Wright says

Amazing! Can use individual pieces as awesome prompts and models. So inspirational and reminds readers of how much of America is the immigrant experience today! I am blown away and love that all proceeds go to charities-a must have for all MS and HS libraries.

## Alicia says

Must I continue to go on and on about my love for short story/essay collections filled with contemporary YA writers on a theme or topic? Well, here I go again-- in the words of Whitesnake.

Using the topic of "hope", this collection of VERY AWESOME and TALENTED writers showcase a piece of them and what hope has meant to them. Ironically, many of the writers are in their late thirties through fifties(ish) and date themselves with their references to cars, music, or historical topic but I don't think it takes away from the story. It's more of an observation. But readers get to peak behind the curtain. Libba Bray explains her devastating car accident that left her with a prosthetic eye, Nicola Yoon talks about her multi-racial marriage and how her Asian in-laws disowned her husband and her as she's Jamaican American while he is Korean American. Several reference 9/11. Others discuss their poor upbringing or their religious beliefs with one of the more powerful stories being told by Aisha Saeed and apologies. Having met Nic Stone, I completely heard her telling the story of her Straight Outta Azkaban story of race and the power of Potter.

The stories were vivid and engaging and can be read as a whole but individually. Thank you to Dr. Rose Brock for bringing this timely collection together (and I mean timely because several authors mention the election of Donald Trump) and women's marches in pussy hats.

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## Erin says

For more of my reviews, visit my blog [As the Book Ends](#) or follow me on Instagram, where I will be featuring this book later today!

Ever since I was a teenager, I have loved reading inspirational stories. I'm tellin' ya, Chicken Soup was my jam. I always cried and just kept going back for more. Honestly one of my favorite things about reading is its ability to instill awe in me. I'm in awe of the characters I read about, their plight and peril, and the obstacles they overcome. Most of all, though? I am in awe of the brilliant and unique minds that come up with these worlds, plots and characters. As an aspiring author, I couldn't say yes quickly enough to this tour - an opportunity to read inspirational stories from some of my all time favorite authors? WHERE DO I SIGN?!

I won't lie to you (come on, do I ever?) I opened this book and BEELINED for Marie Lu's story. Having read every one of her books, and having met her, I had to know what she chose to write about. She spoke of her journey to America, her experiences with the Chinese government, and her time in college in the midst of the Iraq war. Marie's story was wonderful, and it was so incredible to read something that was so her. Its hard to explain, but when reading an author's book, you're learning about them in all of the little ways: the characters they base off of themselves, the characters they base off of who they wish they could be, etc. But there is just something so cool about reading a story written by an author you love about an author you love.

A few of the stories really stuck out to me aside from Lu's were Jeff Zentner and Nicola Yoon's. They were absolutely wonderful and touching. Honestly, though? This entire book was phenomenal. Even if you are a fan of only one author in this anthology, it is worth reading. I feel like after reading this, I can read their works of art with new eyes, knowing just a bit more about authors I love and admire.

Sure, there were a few stories that didn't completely capture my attention (I won't name names, chum\*, they

just weren't for me). As surprising as it may sound, some of the stories just weren't paced in a way that kept my undivided attention. But overall, I absolutely think this is a book for bookworms and non-bookworms alike to pick up. As an aspiring author, I can absolutely tell you this: if you want to write as a career, this is a must read for you.

My Takeaway: Filled with incredible tales, told by some of my favorite YA authors, this anthology was a quick read that kept me intrigued almost all the way through.

\*\*For those who don't know, I just finished Obsidio - so I'm obviously calling everyone "chum", and "cuz". I have also been known recently to use the terms "dusted" and "BLISS" on more than one occasion in the last week. Blame Jay Kristoff and Amie Kauffman.\*\*

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### **Lauren says**

While it started out rocky for me, it got so much better and inspirational as I read on. It's awesome having a book full of (some) authors you look up to giving you encouragement and letting you know that they believe in their readers.

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### **Ellie says**

I love the idea of this collection, I love the diversity in contributors and the personal stories. I do not, however, love the fact that James Dashner was a contributor. I read the first page of his essay and found only hypocrisy- who is he to preach hope when he ripped it out of another person's hands? Allegations of sexual assault came out in February of this year, and this book was copyright 2018 as well. I firmly believe that supporting his work is sending a message that we do not support the victims. I did not read his section, and I hope that you won't either.

That said, I read some truly powerful essays in this collection. It is important to spread hope, love, hard work and empathy at a time like this. My favorite essay was Jeff Zentner's: Nobody Remembers the Names of People Who Build Walls. He discusses the power of literature to build empathy, saying that "In the days to come, you Book People will have to be the keepers of our values. You will need to carry inside you a bright and inextinguishable flame." He mentions that at the end of the day "history honors the names of people who tell stories so powerful that walls crumble and fall before them." I hope you all love, hope, read and find courage in these things. Then stand up and fight back!!!

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### **Aryana Parmar says**

Wow, this book with all the stories combined really defined HOPE. I recognized a few of my favorite authors, some of whom I was glad to see adding some knowledge to this collection. I feel like all kinds of people should read it because it really inspires young people and all really get your blood boiling, in a good way.

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## **Jessica says**

I received a sample of this, with essays by Libba Bray, Angie Thomas and Jeff Zentner. Each one was a unique kindling of hope that had me laughing through tears of beauty and hope. I am eagerly anticipating the final compilation.

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## **Amber says**

I didn't know what to expect from this book. Honestly, I bought it because Julie Murphy talked about it a lot on her Instagram. I saw her posts about her struggle with the fact that Dashner was involved in the project. And I saw that she believed the messages contained in the book were such that they, paired with the support from her fellow authors, deserved to be told, and heard. And I agree. I loved almost every essay in this book. Zetner and Dashner's essays fell flat for me; they didn't resonate with me as a reader, and felt out of place in this collection. But overall, it was an uplifting collection that does exactly what it set out to: instill hope.

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## **Christine Fitzgerald says**

"Hope is a decision" This collection of essays from contemporary young adult authors was an easy read and filled with stories of hope. Great read for fans of each author's work, gives you a peek into their personal lives and their inspirational stories about hope!

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## **Slaa!!! says**

This was a really great collection - I think I'll probably take away something from every essay. Of course I'm partial to my faves: Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely (really loved theirs), Nic Stone (loved hers too), Angie Thomas and Nicola Yoon. But there was a lot to be gained from the stories from authors I didn't know as well, too. I really appreciate when people can be open about the personal and difficult things they've been through - too often these are the things people don't talk about, and others who have been through similar things end up feeling alone. In that respect I especially appreciated Libba Bray's essay - that woman has been through the MILL. I haven't been through all that she has been through, but I've been through enough that I could relate on so many accounts. I also appreciated that the very first story involved John Lewis. Immediate creys!!

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## **Julie Suzanne says**

These essays as a whole are excellent and inspiring to 40-something me. I appreciated that I knew most of the authors, including several Battle of the Books ones, which means that I can probably entice my club members to give this a try. I wonder if they will have the same reaction, as most of these authors are of my generation. My favorites were "Before and After" by Libba Bray (who describes dealing with an accident that disfigured her between graduating HS and going off to college) and Zentner's "Nobody remembers the names of people who build walls" with its glorification of "book people". Actually, all of these stories moved me except for the first one (in which Levithan fictionalizes his experience instead of writing a personal

narrative like everyone else did). I highly recommend this if the intended audience, which I'm pretty sure is teens, is similarly inspired. I just don't know yet.

HS Civics, ELA, and Reading/Writing teachers, consider this essay collection for sources of essays to read/discuss in class!

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