A compelling mix of fiction, poetry, and memoir, Voice on the Water gathers together the voices of contemporary Native writers and artists from Michigan's communities. Here, readers will find a rich set of stories, carved from experience, memory, and imagination, and woven seamlessly into old and ongoing storytelling traditions. Some speak of the world beyond the borders of human society, a place where shape-shifters move freely and people enter carefully and respectfully to rice, sugar and hunt. Others engage those all-too-human worlds of pain and joy, hurt and healing, histories and futures, revealing the many boundaries we use to separate one from another. In such worlds, to be Indian is both a remarkable and challenging thing. The voices gathered here capture the memories of old political battles and daily struggles, illuminating with sensitivity and affection the nature of American Indian life in Michigan today.

—Philip J. Deloria (Standing Rock Sioux)
Author of Playing Indian and Indians in Unexpected Places

It is Anishinaabe tradition to welcome guests into the home, to offer them the best place to sit, and to invite them to partake of our food. To pick up Voice on the Water is to enter the doorway into the home of the Michigan Anishinaabe, who share that sustenance of spirit, their collective story portrait. In allowing the reader to meet aunts and grandfathers, to share the joy of birth and the solemnity of death, to walk alongside the survivors of historical trauma and the keepers of language and culture, this anthology nourishes and educates in a manner that is truly Anishinaabe. Onishishin (it's all good).

—Linda LeGarde Grover
(Belle Forte Ojibwa)
Author of The Dance Boots and The Road Back to Sweetgrass

This anthology brings together new voices, along with a few established authors, to create a community portrait of contemporary American Indians in Michigan. The work included in this project ranges from simple expressions of what it means to be Native today to bilinguial writings revealing the living Ojibwe language. The poems, stories and memories that make up the collection reveal a sincerity that should appeal to a broad audience of Natives and non-Natives alike.

—Heid Erdrich
(Turtle Mountain Ojibwe)
Author of National Monuments and The Mother's Tongue

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