

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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★ **Girls Write Now: Two Decades of True Stories from Young Female Voices.**

Oct. 2018. 336p. Tin House, paper, \$16.95 (9781947793057). Gr. 8–11. 814

Through poetic verse and infused with native language, these 116 autobiographical short stories from black, Asian, and Latina young women are thoughtful, earnest, raw, regretful, angry, and impassioned. They were written while the young women were members of Girls Write Now, a New York writing and mentoring organization for predominantly high-need girls of color. Ranging from just a paragraph to several pages in length, these stories are loosely unified by their subject matter. Many girls explore their loving (or not so loving) relationships with their mothers and grandmothers. The stories delve into topics like being objectified by men, suicide, gender and sexuality, immigration and assimilation, gang violence, microaggressions, and being raised by dads. Inspiring advice by authors Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Roxane Gay, Quiara Alegría Hudes, and Janet Mock, among others, are interspersed throughout. "She was looking at the ground as if she'd broken her neck," from Kiana Marte's story, "Easy-Bake Oven," perfectly describes someone too afraid to look another in the eye. Diamond Abreu's "Why Obsessions Matter" recounts how she is "the purest form of myself" when in a beloved comic-book store. Some stories are more polished than others, but the authors' authentic experiences will elicit strong emotional reactions from readers and maybe even encourage them to write their own. Strongly recommended.

— *Sharon Rawlins*