

Karen An-hwei Lee is a poet and critic. Along with that, her work has gotten her several awards. Brown University awarded her an M.F.A. in creative writing, and the University of California, Berkeley awarded her a Ph.D. in literature. She has written 5 poetry books and 1 fiction book. Her writings have been published in various presses such as, Swan Scythe Press, Tupelo Press, Ellipsis Press, Sarabande Books, Brown University, and Cambria Press. Andrew Colarusso is the founder and editor-in-chief of The Broome Street Review, a self-published literary magazine dedicated to avant-garde art and culture. New York University awarded him a B.A. in Comparative Literature and Brown University awarded him an M.F.A. His works have been published in *Callaloo*, *Callaloo Art*, *FENCE*, and *3: AM Magazine*. *Souvenirs* is a collection of fiction stories by both of these authors that capture important morals and creates several worlds where a specific topic is discussed in a more complex manner. Most of these stories feel like fables where a valuable lesson is always taught at the end or near it.

In *Souvenirs* each short story differs from the last on how well they use these craft elements but overall this novel does great with its variation. Character types in any of the short stories feel unique and when it does happen to be character driven, it handles it well. In the fiction story, “Gazeless”, the element character/types/array is used best as it mainly focuses on two characters and the dialogue between them. The authors manage to create two characters that the audience can feel attached to since the situation they are in feels similar in a way. One character is charming and seems like someone out of a fantasy. While the other is just your normal typical female character that also happens to have a strong connection to her sister. Although the characters in the story are typical, it is the way they interact that gives importance to their characterization. And just like a fable, at the end of this fiction, one of the characters realized the importance of cheering on your loved one. This is also an example of how well impact works and ties into the rest of the fictions. Both the reader and the character, if there is one, can feel affected by the idea in the story. Stories such as “Flock” make use of impact by purposely persuading the reader to understand the harm in shared thinking.

“God will show up in the form of a sheep, they know this shivering in their inner bones, and not only a sheep but a little lamb. The sheep believes he’ll show up in the end times, bleating right out of his mother’s womb, ready to share some astonishing news.” (13)

The quote relates to the idea of shared thinking. Where the term “sheep” can oftentimes relate to a group of people who think and talk the same way. This citation is universal in its meaning and shares believed ideas that can possibly impact the view of readers. Tensions are used but can also be developed more. Most of the tensions feel small and insignificant in comparison to the fiction it is in. There is little to no structure in any of the short stories. But that is expected as it is a collection of fictions and most of them are only 1-5 pages long. That type of length doesn’t allow for a lot of time to pass by.

This novel manages to use several fiction craft elements to its benefit such as, impact, character types, and imagination. Some of the short stories are stronger than others and there isn't any cohesion between any of them. They are all separate and manage to do their own thing. There are only around 2 that do relate to each other. If you enjoy reading a collection of short fictions that discuss complex topics then this will be compelling to you. There isn't anything to compare this book to. There is a huge contrast between short stories and it is obvious that two authors worked together to make this work. The two authors managed to work together well enough to make a collection that fits well into the main theme they wanted to portray.