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THE ANGEL of DEMOCRACY

On Being an American Citizen

Susan
Griffin

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Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy | Non-fiction/Politics

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SUSAN GRIFFIN

Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy *On Being an American Citizen*



"Susan Griffin has removed the rhetorical clichés from democracy and revealed a breathing, sentient angel of wisdom now held captive by tyranny, money, and our misplaced faith in authority. This is nothing less than cultural poetry steeped in history and heart."—PAUL HAWKEN, author of *Blessed Unrest*

At this moment in our history, ordinary American citizens fall under government surveillance, power is wrested away daily from our representatives in Congress, labor laws are being dismantled and public education receives less funding than a war with no clear motive or direction, and those who reside in the White House more closely resemble a monarchy than democratically elected officials. Undeniably, our democracy is in a state of flux.

Combining stories from her own experience as a citizen with portraits of creativity and inner courage from the lives of men and women who helped to develop democracy in America, Susan Griffin charts the origins of our democratic ideals, and examines the actions we need to take to sustain them.

SUSAN GRIFFIN is an award-winning poet, writer, essayist, playwright, and filmmaker, and has written nineteen books, including *A Chorus of Stones*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Her works include *The Book of Courtesans*, *What Her Body Thought*, *Woman and Nature*, *Bending Home: Poems Selected and New 1967–1998*, and she is the co-editor of the forthcoming *Transforming Terror: Remembering the Soul of the World*.

Named by *Utne Reader* as one of the top hundred visionaries for the new millennium, she is the recipient of an Emmy, a MacArthur Grant for Peace and International Cooperation, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The author's writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Ms* magazine, and several other publications. She lives in Berkeley, California.

"Susan Griffin's superb prose reveals democracy not as a distant abstraction but as a live, inspiring, and difficult presence shaping us every day."—GEORGE LAKOFF, author of *Whose Freedom? The Battle over America's Most Important Idea*, and *Moral Politics*

"In this compelling book Susan Griffin shows us that democracy is not something that we can take for granted. We must continually establish it in our hearts and in our society."—MAXINE HONG KINGSTON, author of *The Woman Warrior*

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