



Demands of the Dead: Executions, Storytelling, and Activism in the United States

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The first work to combine literary criticism with other forms of death penalty–abolitionist writing, *Demands of the Dead* demonstrates the active importance of literature and literary criticism to the struggle for greater justice in the United States. Gathering personal essays, scholarly articles, and creative writings on the death penalty in American culture, this striking collection brings human voices and literary perspectives to a subject that is often overburdened by statistics and angry polemics. Contributors include death-row prisoners, playwrights, poets, activists, and literary scholars.

Highlighting collaborations between writers inside and outside prison, all within the context of the history of state killing laws and foundational concepts that perpetuate a culture of violent death, *Demands of the Dead* opens with a pamphlet dictated by Willie Francis, a teenager who survived a first execution attempt in Louisiana’s electric chair before he was subsequently killed by the state in 1947.

Writers are a conspicuous part of U.S. death-penalty history, composing a vibrant literary record of resistance to state killing. This multigenre collection both recalls and contributes to this tradition through discussions of such writers as Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, Gertrude Atherton, Ernest Gaines, Sonia Sanchez, Kia Corthron, and Sherman Alexie. A major contribution to literary studies and American prison studies, *Demands of the Dead* asserts the relevance of storytelling to ethical questions and matters of public policy.

Contributors

Sherman Alexie
John Cyril Barton
Steve Champion
Kia Corthron
Thomas Dutoit
Willie Francis
H. Bruce Franklin
Tom Kerr
David Kieran
Jennifer Leigh Lieberman
Jill McDonough
Anthony Ross
Katy Ryan
Elizabeth Ann Stein
Rick Stetter
Matthew Stratton
Jason Stupp
Delbert Tibbs

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From reader reviews:

Earl Goodman:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand up than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific Demands of the Dead: Executions, Storytelling, and Activism in the United States book as starter and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Douglas Whatley:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the data about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to the book. One of them is this Demands of the Dead: Executions, Storytelling, and Activism in the United States.

Daniel White:

This Demands of the Dead: Executions, Storytelling, and Activism in the United States is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it info accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but hard core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Demands of the Dead: Executions, Storytelling, and Activism in the United States in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no e-book that offer you world within ten or fifteen moment right but this reserve already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

Bonnie Gallup:

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