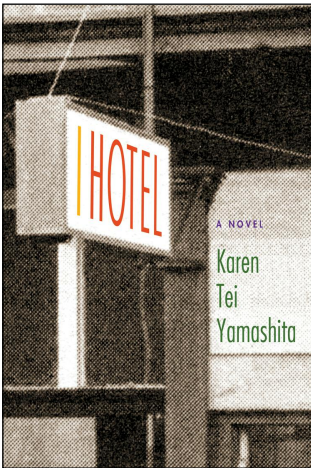


COFFEE HOUSE PRESS ANNOUNCES

Coffee House Press Author Karen Tei Yamashita Named National Book Award Finalist for *I Hotel*



I Hotel

Novel by Karen Tei Yamashita
Illustrated by Leland Wong
and Sina Grace
May 2010

ISBN: 978-1-56689-239-1
640 pages | 6 x 9 | \$19.95
30 color & B&W illustrations
+ photographs
Trade Paperback Original



Karen Tei Yamashita



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MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (October 14, 2010) — Karen Tei Yamashita has been named a finalist in the 2010 National Book Awards for her novel, *I Hotel*. The announcement was made yesterday morning by the National Book Foundation. Yamashita's novel traces the struggle of Asian immigrants and their children for political power in her native California.

"In a year when immigrants are being scapegoated for all of America's ills, it is particularly gratifying that Karen Tei Yamashita's *I Hotel* has been honored as a finalist for the National Book Award," says Coffee House founder and publisher Allan Kornblum. "Coffee House Press is proud to have discovered this dazzling talent, and to have consistently championed her work since publishing her first title, *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*, twenty years ago."

Other books by Karen Tei Yamashita include *Brazil-Marú* (1992), *Tropic of Orange* (1997), and *Circle K Cycles* (2001).

I Hotel, Yamashita's fifth book published by Coffee House Press, follows America's struggle for civil rights as it played out in San Francisco's Chinatown from 1968-1977. Written as a series of 10 linked novellas, one for each year, Yamashita paints a tumultuous portrait of the students, laborers, artists, revolutionaries, and provocateurs who unite to save the International Hotel, the epicenter of the Yellow Power movement. Its fusion of prose, playwriting, graphic art, and philosophy received starred reviews from both *Booklist* and *Publishers Weekly* and has been described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as a "dazzling . . . passionate, bighearted novel."

The recipient of both an American Book Award and the Janet Heidinger Kafka Award, Karen Tei Yamashita is one of the foremost writers of her generation and has been heralded as a "big talent" by the *Los Angeles Times*. She currently teaches at the University of California-Santa Cruz, where she received the Chancellor's Award for Diversity in 2009.

Other National Book Award finalists in the fiction category include Peter Carey, author of *Parrot and Olivier in America* (Alfred, A. Knopf), Jaimy Gordon, author of *Lord of Misrule* (McPherson & Co), Nicole Krauss, author of *Great House* (W.W. Norton & Co.), and Lionel Shriver, author of *So Much for That* (Harper). The winners of the 2010 National Book Awards will be announced at the gala National Book Awards Ceremony in New York City on November 17, 2010.

Located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, **Coffee House Press** is an independent, nonprofit literary publisher of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. The mission of Coffee House Press is to publish exciting, vital, and enduring authors of our time; to delight and inspire readers; to contribute to the cultural life of our community; and to enrich our literary heritage.

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