

University of Washington Press Book News

Citizen 13660

Drawings and text by Miné Okubo

This poignantly written and beautifully illustrated memoir of life in a relocation center by a Japanese American woman was first published in 1946 and is now available in a paperback edition with a new preface by the author. By means of her remarkable drawings and simple, straightforward prose, Miné Okubo portrays her experiences from the time of Pearl Harbor until her release from a relocation center in the Utah desert. The keenly observant drawings not only entertain the reader but provide a significant record of Citizen 13660's existence under "protective custody."

"A remarkably objective and vivid and even humorous account. . . . In dramatic and detailed drawings and brief text, she documents the whole episode. . . . Miné was everywhere with her sketch pad, recording all that she saw, objectively, yet with a warmth of understanding."—*New York Times Book Review*

"Miss Okubo, who considers herself completely American, tells her story with ingenuousness, but there is a certain Oriental subtlety in the illustrations. The captions are written with restraint and humor and seem to depreciate the inconvenience of the camps: the drawings themselves do not minimize them at all."—*The New Yorker*

"[Miné Okubo] took her months of life in the concentration camp and made it the material for this amusing, heart-breaking book. . . . The moral is never expressed, but the wry pictures and the scanty words make the reader laugh—and if he is an American too—sometimes blush."—Pearl Buck

226 pp., 200 illus.
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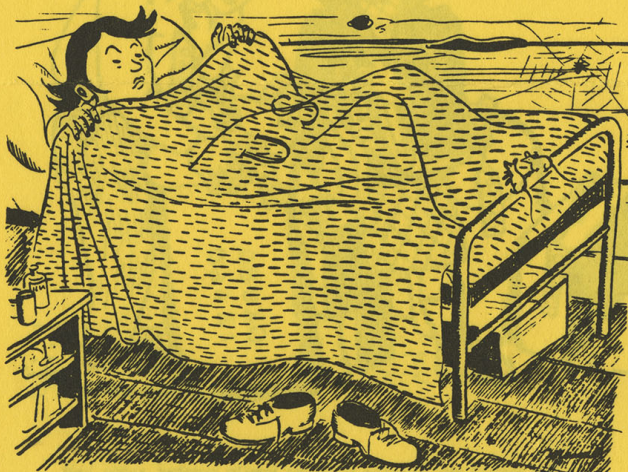
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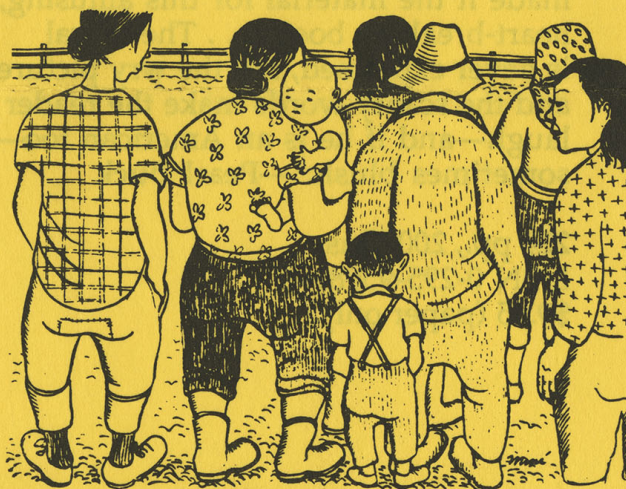
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We had to make friends with the wild creatures in the camp, especially the spiders, mice, and rats, because we were outnumbered.



Women, from grandmothers to toddlers, wore slacks or jeans.