

BOOK NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS

Citizen 13660

DRAWINGS & TEXT BY MINÉ OKUBO

Publication date: June 20, 1983

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



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(continued)

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

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Miné Okubo

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