CONTENTS

A Few Words about These Essays	ix
The American People	1
Pumping Gas	11
Flying Backward	21
Bigger, Better, Best	31
Race and Racism: The 2008 Election	41
The Cell Remembers	51
Rolling Eyes	65
Remembering Mother	75
First Laugh	79
Piercing the Walls	91
Oñate's Right Foot	109
Can Poetry Matter?	123
Words for El Como Emplumado	135
The Living Silence of a Place like Kiet Seel	141
Betrayal	155
Crystal's Gift	169
The Place Where Color Sounds	181
My Losses	189
Notes	209