

# DREAM CATCHERS

## POPS THE CLUB ANTHOLOGY

EDITED BY AMY FRIEDMAN & DENNIS DANZIGER · RELEASE DATE: JAN. 12, 2021

An inspiring collection of teen-created poems, prose, and artwork that elucidates the hidden world of young adults living in a carceral state.

Created by members of the POPS the Club, a national organization for high school students who have been impacted by incarceration (as the children or other loved ones of the incarcerated), the pieces are emotive but not resigned. Readers will connect to many of the major themes, including navigating change, overcoming adversity, advocating for social justice, and questioning one's place in the world. Divided thematically into 12 sections, the entries show the daily realities and struggles of the student writers as they deftly navigate multiple spaces. Many of the teens' challenges present as ordinary angst, like navigating school, while others point to deeper traumas, like parents with substance use disorders. Overall, their contributions are lyrical, haunting, and poignant, and the anthology marches toward hope. While the execution of some reflects the contributors' youth, others, like "Me Nombraron Después de Ella" ("They Named Me After Her") by Donaji Garcia, stand out for their mature use of metaphor, language, lyricism, movement, and pacing. Other pieces are a call to action, directly confronting the impact of incarceration on families and challenging adults to fix a justice system that is overburdened with imprisoned people while neglecting children's emotional health.

Birds sing outside cages: Overall hopeful selections inspire a desire to rethink justice and enact change. (*Anthology*. 12-18)

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