

Cara Page and Erica Woodland. (2023) *Healing Justice Lineages: Dreaming at the Crossroads of Liberation, Collective Care, and Safety*. North Atlantic Books. 320 pp. 9781623177140, USD 17.95 (pbk)

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Cara Page and Erica Woodland's book *Healing Justice Lineages: Dreaming at the Crossroads of Liberation, Collective Care, and Safety* is an anthology that draws on history and past learnings to provide a blueprint for collective survival, liberation, and safety. It is a beautiful collection of storytelling, poetry, art, and reflective practices that unite as an unapologetic and bold call to action. The book's values, ideas, and energy are needed right now. Amid a global pandemic and heightened xenophobia, racism, and fascism, we need to build collective power to reimagine a new model of healing and care. Recognising and using previous important works, this book carves out a pathway for designing alternative care systems rooted in liberation.

The two authors acknowledge their lineage in the introduction to position themselves within the context of this book. As Black queer feminists, anti-capitalists, and abolitionists the authors come together to reflect on the healing justice movement and to advocate for collective care and safety strategies. Alongside Cara Page and Erica Woodland, the book importantly centres the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) and shares their stories of resistance, liberation, and collective care. As healing justice requires collective action, this book gathers insights from community change-makers who resist, intervene, and reimagine. Beyond explaining healing justice, this book models what collective action and care can look like.

The book is divided into six 'portals' in which the past, present, and future are constantly aligned and in conversation with each other. A thread throughout the book is the importance of holding the memories and wisdom

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of BIPOC ancestors to navigate the present and dream of a liberatory future. As the authors indicate, the book is best read from front to back, as the historical context is necessary to understand the present and future directions of healing justice.

Appropriately, the book opens with an invocation and an invitation to join in the healing justice movement. Here, readers are encouraged to challenge preconceived ideas and sit with any contradictions and discomforts that the book may bring. The second portal, *Past: Reckoning with Roots and Lineage*, maps the history of generations that have survived and resisted, which acknowledges that healing justice as a practice is not new. This portal commences with thought-provoking questions to assist the reader in listening to the elements – fire, air, water, and earth – as the book embarks on a reminiscence journey.

Portal three, *Origins of Healing Justice*, grounds the reader in the principles of healing justice: collective trauma is transformed collectively; there is no single model of care; and healing strategies are rooted in place and ancestral technologies. Next, *Alchemy: Theory and Praxis* acknowledges five pillars of healing justice: transformative justice, disability justice, reproductive justice, environmental justice, and harm reduction. This portal outlines sites of practice in New Mexico, the Midwest, California, and New York City that are each imagining, creating, and embracing collective care and safety approaches embedded in healing justice frameworks. These localised initiatives are offered as inspiration, and to recognise that there are multiple models of collective care and safety.

The penultimate portal, *Political + Spiritual Imperatives for the Future* is future-focused and sheds light on what needs to be done to ensure collective care, liberation, and safety for future generations. Here, abolition is promoted as a movement towards dismantling harmful systems, but more importantly to transforming social conditions to promote ecosystems of care. This portal reminds the reader to remain cautious of co-optation and to continue to ask and address critical questions about the healing justice movement. In alignment with the book's opening, the book closes with a devocation to express gratitude for ancestral wisdom that guides liberatory movements.

When reading this anthology, I appreciated the combination of various ways that healing justice was presented: from theory, reflection, and practice. Chapters that provide the theoretical principles and foundations of healing justice were complimented by exercises that encourage the reader to



pause, reflect, meditate, and move.. Vignettes and storytelling are also powerfully woven throughout the book. They serve to shed light on individuals and collectives who are living and breathing healing justice practices.

As a prison abolitionist and non-Indigenous person based in Aotearoa New Zealand, this book supplemented and broadened my understanding of visions of collective care and safety outside of the state. While I am familiar with transformative justice movements, this book introduced me to the healing justice framework and how important it is as a response to intergenerational trauma. The book is understandably grounded in the United States context; however, it is still a valuable read for global audiences. As the book acknowledges, healing justice practices and alternative systems of care must be embedded in the communities in which they are based. For international audiences, it is crucial to consider their own country's lineage of trauma, struggle, and resistance, and how that can inform the re-envisioned models of care and safety.

Page and Woodland present a persuasive argument for the need for healing justice. *Healing Justice Lineages* is accessible, provocative, timely, and visionary. It beautifully contributes to the growing literature that invokes us to challenge harmful institutions and structures, whilst creating and dreaming of collective and sustainable liberation (Davis, Dent, Meiners, & Richie, 2022; Dixon & Piepzna-Samarasinha, 2020; Kaba, 2021; Kaba & Ritchie, 2022; Norris, 2020). The book can also function as a map to new insights, as the endnotes encourage further reading and exploration.

*Healing Justice Lineages* is a compelling and necessary book for many people: activists, community organisers, academics, anyone committed to creating collective care outside of the state, people most impacted by state violence and intergenerational trauma, and non-BIPOC allies. This book continually expresses that healing justice is a movement and practice grounded in building collective power. The more people who read this book and live with a commitment to the values in the book, the sooner we will get to collective liberation, joy, and freedom.

**References**

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