



## Is There Hope for American Democracy?

*Susan Griffin on the rise and fall of the American vision of equality and freedom.*

Boston, MA (Trumpeter Books) March 3, 2008—Out in hardcover in April, *Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy: On Being an American Citizen*, by the award-winning writer, poet and political activist Susan Griffin, contemplates the ways in which we have upheld our founding vision of democracy, and the tragic ways in which we haven't. She argues that currently our most cherished democratic ideals are in jeopardy.

While depicting such triumphant moments in American history as the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, the beginnings of environmentalism, the movements for civil rights and worker's rights, the birth of American jazz, *Wrestling with Angel of Democracy* also explores the darker sides of American history both past and present, from racism and slavery, the Trail of Tears, the gross exploitation of working people, to more current events, including the "war on terrorism."

Combining stories from her own experience as a citizen with portraits of creativity and inner courage from the lives of men and women who helped to shape democracy in America, Susan Griffin charts the origins of our democratic ideals, and examines the actions we need to take to sustain them.

Griffin asserts:

- that the United States is losing sight of its founding ideals
- that both freedom and equality are based on empathy—that any right I have should be shared
- that empire building, whether by heads of state or corporations, is a threat to democracy
- that the struggle between rule of monarchy and democracy continues to this day
- the historical and continuing connection between women's rights, worker's rights, and civil rights

*Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy: On Being an American Citizen* continues what Griffin began in *A Chorus of Stones* (a finalist for both a Pulitzer and National Book Award, and a *New York Times* "Notable Book"), an insightful social critique that seems especially relevant as Americans face a presidential election that has the potential to turn our country toward true environmental stewardship, diplomacy untainted by war, and a fairer and more consistent form of democracy.

"Unique . . . fresh and probing. . . strikes at the very heart of America's cruel paradoxes. With a light yet devastating touch, Griffin charts our continued 'wrestling' with democratic ideals—her incisive search for the soul of democracy stirs up pride, despair, and hope."—*Booklist*

"Susan Griffin has removed the rhetorical clichés from democracy and revealed a breathing, sentient angel of wisdom now held captive by tyranny, money, and our misplaced faith in authority. This is nothing less than cultural poetry steeped in history and heart."—Paul Hawkin, author of *Blessed Unrest*

"Susan Griffin's superb prose reveals democracy not as a distant abstraction but as a live, inspiring, and difficult presence shaping us every day, an angel all Americans wrestle with."—George Lakoff, author of *Whose Freedom? The Battle over America's Most Important Idea and Moral Politics*

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:



Contact: Steven Pomije, Publicity  
Trumpeter ~ an Imprint of Shambhala  
Tel: [617] 424 0030 ext 232  
E-mail: publicity@shambhala.com

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**SUSAN GRIFFIN** is an award-winning writer, poet, playwright, and filmmaker. She is the author of nineteen books, including *A Chorus of Stones*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Her works include *The Book of Courtesans*, *What Her Body Thought*, *Woman and Nature*, *Bending Home: Poems Selected and New 1967–1998*, and she is the co-editor of the forthcoming *Transforming Terror: Remembering the Soul of the World*.

Named by *Utne Reader* as one of the top hundred visionaries for the new millennium, she is the recipient of an Emmy, a MacArthur Grant for Peace and International Cooperation, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The author's work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *Ms* magazine, and several other publications. She lives in Berkeley, California.

The hardcover edition of *Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy* is being published April 2008 by Trumpeter Books, distributed by Random House, for \$24.95.

To interview Susan Griffin contact Steven Pomije at (617) 424-0030 ext. 232.

A 12-city author tour includes Boston, New York, Washington, DC, Denver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles (April, May 2008).

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**Contact Information:**

**Steven Pomije, Publicity**

Trumpeter Books, an imprint of Shambhala Publications, Inc.

300 Massachusetts Ave

Boston, MA 02115

617-424-0030 ext. 232

publicity@shambhala.com

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