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Foreword

The San Francisco Bay Area has been a more varied and complex place than is often acknowledged. Languages, cultures, art, grift, privilege, destitution: storytellers of all kinds have found it convenient to create whatever narrative they want around our hills and bridges. Newcomers arrive regularly and some don't take the time to look things over before trying to rearrange the public furniture. Nationally the Bay Area has often been characterized as a nest of deviant excess and liberal nonsense, while at the same time we are home to some of the most bizarre rituals of performance conservatism. This is an area that has recently seen more houselessness, lynching, and bigotry and also more great acts of community empathy. We are not easily characterized.

This collection of works is the result of asking writers from many communities to speak to the home. These Bay Area writers offer some of the ways in which we are home in this place. Enter with reverence and vigor, be welcome, we live here.

Kim Shuck