

No-No Boy has the honor of being the very first Japanese American novel, writes novelist Ruth Ozeki in her new foreword to John Okada's classic of Asian American literature. First published in 1956, No-No Boy was virtually ignored by a public eager to put World War II and the Japanese internment behind them. It was not until the mid-1970s that a new generation of Japanese American writers and scholars recognized the novel's importance and popularized it as one of literatures most powerful testaments to the Asian American experience. No-No Boy tells the story of Ichiro Yamada, a fictional version of the real-life no-no boys. Yamada answered no twice in a compulsory government questionnaire as to whether he would serve in the armed forces and swear loyalty to the United States. Unwilling to pledge himself to the country that interned him and his family, Ichiro earns two years in prison and the hostility of his family and community when he returns home to Seattle. As Ozeki writes, Ichiro's obsessive, tormented voice subverts Japanese postwar model-minority stereotypes, showing a fractured community and one man's threnody of guilt, rage, and blame as he tries to negotiate his reentry into a shattered world. The first edition of No-No Boy since 1979 presents this important work to new generations of readers. Replaces ISBN 9780295955254

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