



## About the Author

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Anne Fadiman is an author, essayist, editor, and teacher. Her first book, **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down**, chronicles the trials of an epileptic Hmong child and her family living in Merced, California. Fadiman's sensitive, incisive treatment of the unbreachable gulf between the Hmong and American medical systems won her a National Book Critics' Circle Award. *The Washington Post* called the book "an intriguing, spirit-lifting, extraordinary exploration." The book continues to be taught at universities both as literary journalism and as a casebook for cross cultural sensitivity in general; it is also widely read by medical practitioners who wish to offer more effective care to patients from other cultures.

As the inaugural Francis Writer in Residence, Yale University's first chair in nonfiction writing, Anne Fadiman serves as both a professor in the English department and a mentor to students considering careers in writing or editing. Her best-selling book **Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader** is a collection of essays originally published in the Library of Congress's *Civilization* magazine, where Fadiman served as one of the founding editors. It is a book entirely about books — from the purchasing of them, to the reading of them, to the handling of them (always write in the margins; go ahead and crack the spines; pay no mind if you drop crumbs between the pages; shelve American literature alphabetically by author, English literature chronologically). *The London Observer* called **Ex Libris** "witty, enchanting, and supremely well-written." It has been or will be translated into thirteen languages, including Korean and Catalan.

For seven years Anne Fadiman edited *The American Scholar*, the venerable literary quarterly, described by *The New York Times* as "an intellectual giant." Her essays and articles have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*, among many other publications. She has won National Magazine Awards for both reporting and essays. Anne Fadiman is the editor of both the 2003 edition of **Best American Essays** and **Rereadings: Seventeen Writers Revisit Books They Love** (2005).

"Ms. Fadiman tells her story with a novelist's grace, playing the role of cultural broker, comprehending those who do not comprehend each other and perceiving what might have been done or said to make the outcome different." - *The New York Times*

"Students' reactions to Anne Fadiman's work exceeded all of our (already high) expectations! Her address to our community was just wonderful. Students are still talking about the book and about Anne." - *Brandeis University*

"Some writers. . . have done exceedingly well at taking in one or another human scene, then conveying it to others — James Agee, for instance. . . and George Orwell. . . It is in such company that Anne Fadiman's writing belongs." - *Robert Coles*