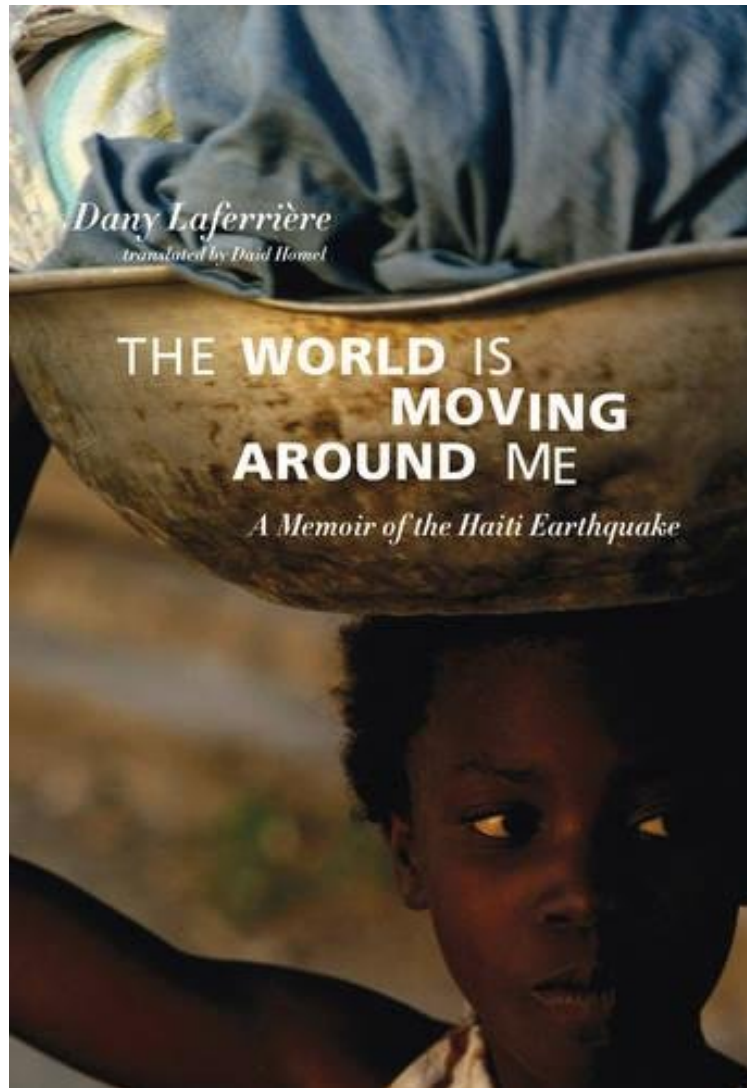


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## The World is Moving Around Me: A Memoir of the Haiti Earthquake

*Dany Laferrière*

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**Dany Laferrière : The World is Moving Around Me: A Memoir of the Haiti Earthquake** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World is Moving Around Me: A Memoir of the Haiti Earthquake:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a wonderful book by a Haitian author who lives in Montreal ...By Jenifer Grant This is a wonderful book by a Haitian author who lives in Montreal who was actually in Haiti for a writers' conference at the time of the earthquake. I have read a great many books about the earthquake mostly by

outsiders which tend to voyeurism and critiques. This book conveys so much of the character of the Haitian people and the challenges they faced immediately following the "tremblement." M. LaFerrire includes relevant information about people and the effect on their lives in during the earthquake in his inimitable well written prose. I have read it in the excellent English translation and now re-reading it in the original French version. As a long time habitue of Haiti, I revel in Mr. LaFerrire's respectful views of the Haitian people.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerGreat book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Jean D. Ortesok

On January 12, 2010, novelist Dany Laferrire had just ordered dinner at a Port-au-Prince restaurant with a friend when the earthquake struck. He survived; some three hundred thousand others did not. The quake caused widespread destruction and left over one million homeless. This moving and revelatory book is an eyewitness account of the quake and its aftermath. In a series of vignettes, Laferrire reveals the shock, rage, and grief experienced by those around him, the acts of heroism he witnessed, and his own sense of survivor guilt. At one point, his nephew, astonished at still being alive, asks his uncle not to write about "this," "this" being too horrible to give up so easily to those who were not there. But as a writer, Laferrire can't make such a promise. Still, the question is raised: to whom does this disaster belong? Who gets to talk and write about it? In this way, this book is not only the chronicle of a natural disaster; it is also a personal meditation about the responsibility and power of the written word in a manner that echoes certain post-Holocaust books. Includes a foreword by Michalle Jean, UN special envoy to Haiti and the former Governor General of Canada. Dany Laferrire was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 1953. He is the author of fourteen novels, including *Heading South* and *How to Make Love to a Negro without Getting Tired*. His awards include the Prix Mdicis and the Governor General's Literary Award. He lives in Montreal, Quebec.

"Keen observation, incisive analysis and passionate engagement mark this author's account of the 2010 earthquake that devastated his native Haiti ... Through vignettes that range from a paragraph to a couple of pages, novelist Laferrire delivers a knockout punch through prose favoring matter-of-fact understatement over sentimental histrionics." Kirkus s (STARRED REVIEW)"Laferrire has a lucid plain-style which may remind American readers of the best of Ernest Hemingway, specifically Hemingway's commitment to writing about the actions that produce emotions, rather than about feelings themselves ... The glimpses Laferrire records of people on the devastated streets of Port-au-Prince accrue to give a deeper substance to the idea of Haitian indomitability." Slate.com"A compelling firsthand account with cleverly crafted imagery and skilfully interwoven narrative strands about a country shook to its bare bones, fighting to defeat the shadow of death ... Just as T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* is made up of seemingly disjointed images that work together to create a whole, so too is Laferrire's memoir. It is this heap of broken images to borrow Eliot's words that are held together by the strongest thread of all: culture." ARC magazine"Laferrire has written not only a valuable book but also a necessary one, a slim but potent volume reminding us that the people of Haiti deserve far better than the cards handed to them by fate ... In a just world, this book will excite renewed passion for helping Haiti and also a large audience for Laferrire himself, a talented writer who deserves a wide readership." National Post"The World is Moving Around Me is unpretentious, starkly honest and good-humoured. Laferrire, a prize-winning novelist in the francophone literary world, is a masterful writer and his memoir, told in a clear and simple voice beautifully rendered by translator David Homel, is true to his vision of the essential role of culture, 'the only thing that can stand up to the earthquake intellectual culture [and] what structures a nation. If we don't want to turn into a victim nation, we have to keep moving. We'll cry later when things are better.' " The Globe and Mail