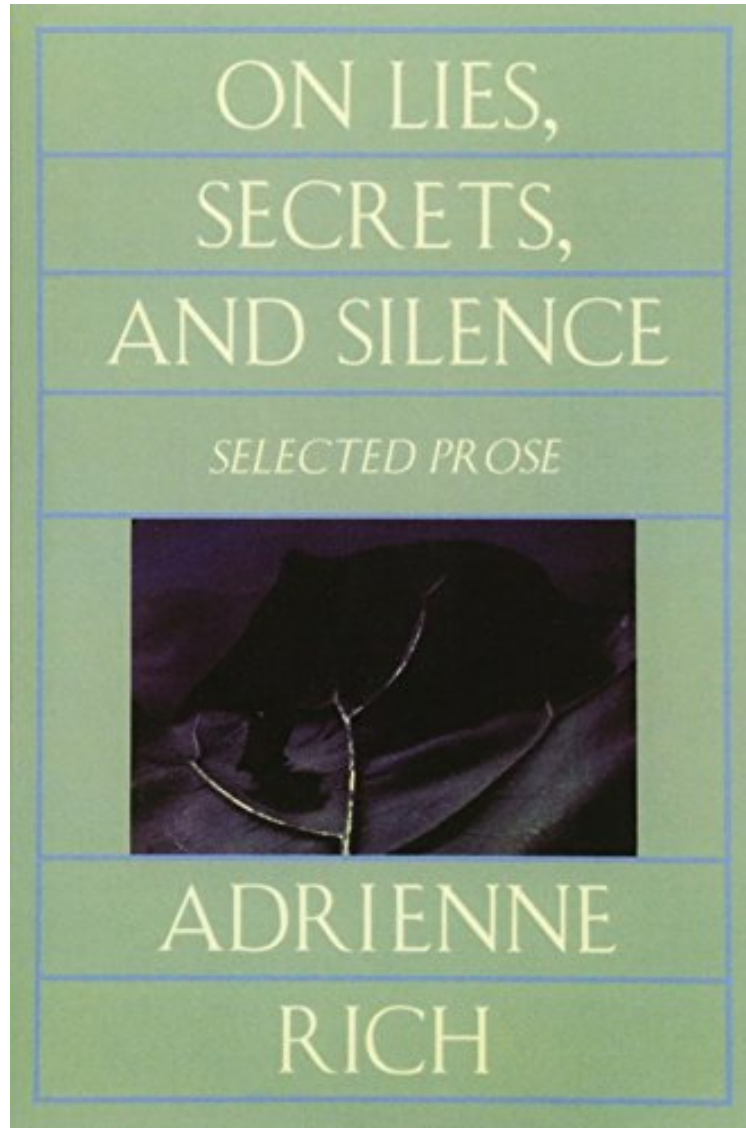


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On Lies, Secrets, and Silence: Selected Prose 1966-1978

Adrienne Rich

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In this collection of prose writings, one of America's foremost poets and feminist theorists reflects upon themes that have shaped her life and work. At issue are the politics of language; the uses of scholarship; and the topics of racism, history, and motherhood among others called forth by Rich as "part of the effort to define a female consciousness which is political, aesthetic, and erotic, and which refuses to be included or contained in the culture of passivity."

From the Back CoverOne of America's foremost poets and feminist theorists collect here some of her most important early prose writings. *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence* is an extraordinary sort of travel diary, documenting Adrienne Rich's journeys to the frontier and into the interior. It traces the development of one individual consciousness, 'playing over such issues as motherhood, racism, history, poetry, the uses of scholarship, the politics of language.' Rich has written a headnote for each essay, briefly discussing the circumstances of its writing. About the AuthorWidely read, widely anthologized, widely interviewed, and widely taught, Adrienne Rich (1929-2012) was for decades among the most influential writers of the feminist movement and one of the best-known American public intellectuals. She wrote two dozen volumes of poetry and more than a half-dozen of prose. Her constellation of honors includes a National Book Award for poetry for *Tonight, No Poetry Will Serve*, a MacArthur Foundation genius grant in 1994, and a National Book Award for poetry in 1974 for *Diving Into the Wreck*. That volume, published in 1973, is considered her masterwork. Ms. Rich's other volumes of poetry include *The Dream of a Common Language*, *A Wild Patience Has Taken Me This Far*, *An Atlas of the Difficult World*, *The School Among the Ruins*, and *Telephone Ringing in the Labyrinth*. Her prose includes the essay collections *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence*; *Blood, Bread, and Poetry*; an influential essay, *Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence*, and the nonfiction book *Of Woman Born*, which examines the institution of motherhood as a socio-historic construct. In 2006, Rich was awarded the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters by the National Book Foundation. In 2010, she was honored with The Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry's Lifetime Recognition Award.