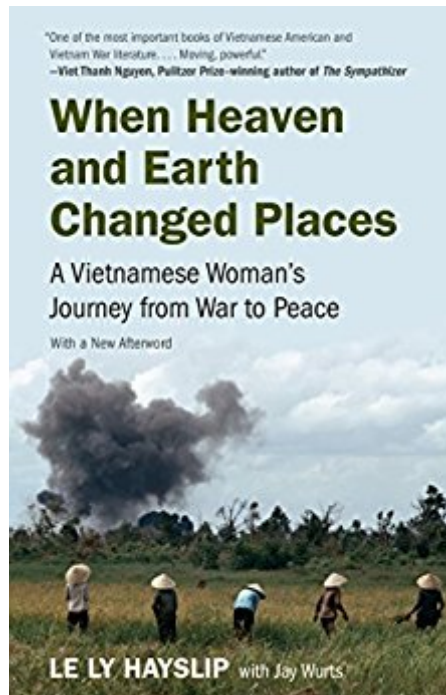




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When Heaven And Earth Changed Places



Synopsis

It is said that in war heaven and earth change places not once, but many times. When Heaven and Earth Changed Places is the haunting memoir of a girl on the verge of womanhood in a world turned upside down. The youngest of six children in a close-knit Buddhist family, Le Ly Hayslip was twelve years old when U.S. helicopters landed in Ky La, her tiny village in central Vietnam. As the government and Viet Cong troops fought in and around Ky La, both sides recruited children as spies and saboteurs. Le Ly was one of those children. Before the age of sixteen, Le Ly had suffered near-starvation, imprisonment, torture, rape, and the deaths of beloved family members—but miraculously held fast to her faith in humanity. And almost twenty years after her escape to America, she was drawn inexorably back to the devastated country and family she left behind. Scenes of this joyous reunion are interwoven with the brutal war years, offering a poignant picture of Vietnam, then and now, and of a courageous woman who experienced the true horror of the Vietnam War—and survived to tell her unforgettable story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Amazing. For the first 3/4 of the book, I was given the opportunity to understand a culture from the inside, clearly and via honoring the specific perspective of the Vietnamese villagers vs global politics and what I had read in newspapers and magazines over the past 50 years. The last section did veer into politics / explanation and felt as if there were an agenda. Not disqualifying to the majority of the book, but of less impact for me.

I was there as a US govt covert agent - the whole time, and had no idea of the mentality, spirituality, and ancestral and family ties of the poor Vietnamese villagers, who while only trying to till the soil and eek out a living, were mercilessly killed and kidnapped by the Vietnamese soldiers in the daytime, and the Viet Cong at night. The horrifying impact of the war on 90% of the Vietnamese population was never adequately understood by any of us.

A beautiful, heartbreaking, and enlightening story. I loved understanding this piece of history from a Vietnamese youth's perspective. This story is a reminder that not everything is as it seems, and it's crucial that we always attempt to see things thru others' eyes, and not just our own. The lessons in this story reach far beyond the Vietnam war.

Wow! What an impactful, emotional, searing, insightful, raw, and well written story of this Vietnamese girl/lady. What an incredible view into a time and place. This book is compelling. It is a driving force. It is so well done.

Haven't finished but was recommended by a local while visiting Vietnam and it is an interesting perspective.

As a Vietnam infantry veteran, this book has been of great value to me by helping me to better understand the nature of that war and the people of Vietnam. I now have a better understanding of our enemy at the time. I would highly recommend it to any veteran of that unfortunate conflict.

Vietnam war era novels such as this should be mandatory reading for high school and college students. Our millennials need to understand war is not all black and white. Hayslip effectively conveyed wars' gray zone.

As a Vietnam veteran, this was a must read book for me. To see that war through different eyes

reached out to me.

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