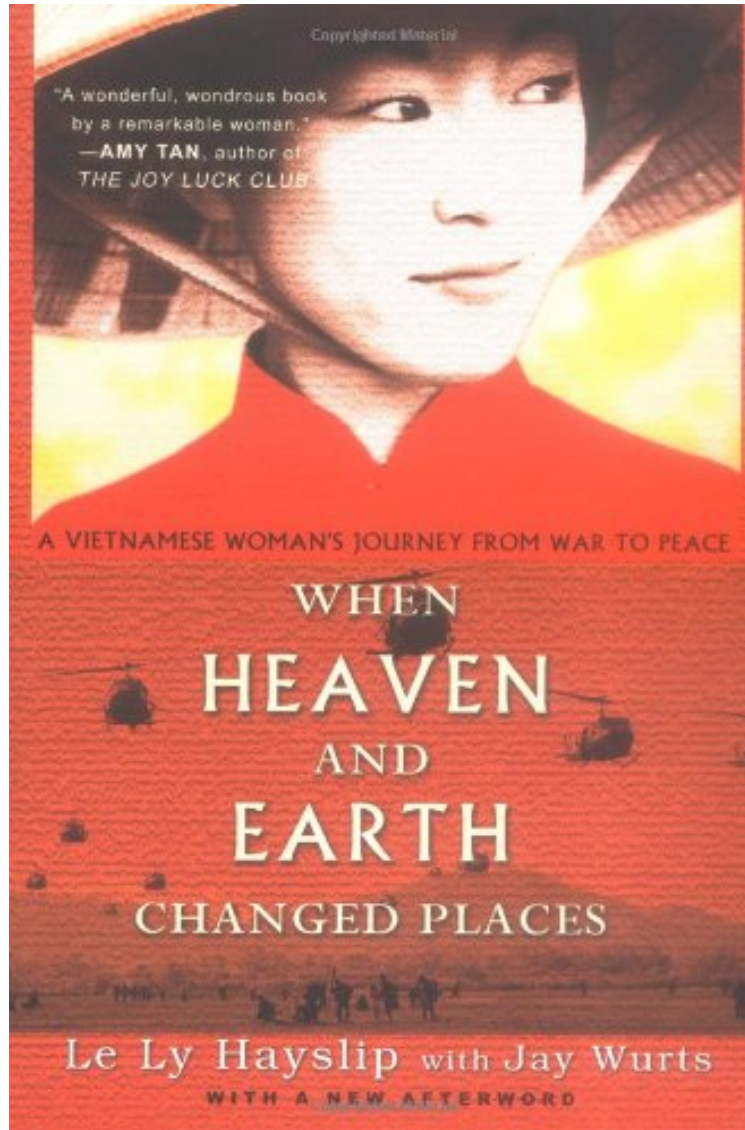


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When Heaven and Earth Changed Places (Tie-In Edition)

Le Ly Hayslip, Jay Wurts

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Le Ly Hayslip, Jay Wurts : When Heaven and Earth Changed Places (Tie-In Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Heaven and Earth Changed Places (Tie-In Edition):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. North and South By Roger The book is well written, introspective and gentle in its characterization of Yankees, village people, family members and soldiers, despite their bad behavior. Le Ly Hayslip lived in the South, near DaNang, but her family included brothers who fought for both the North and the

South. Her village was divided in its loyalties and there was inevitable spying and reporting on each other. Le Ly portrays her village social harmony before the war and how it disappeared during the conflict. She describes her parents' behavior and reaction to the extreme danger and turmoil of the times. She describes her village in loving terms without being overly sentimental. There are many scenes of high adventure as she tries to navigate safely within a powder-keg environment. There are other scenes with parents, siblings, friends that seek to make sense out of the senseless, choices when no good ones are available. She discusses the behavior of American GIs, including her involvement with them. The reader can begin to understand the predicament of young Vietnamese women and their social entrapment. The case studies of several American soldiers is not flattering, but their behavior is portrayed in a straight-forward manner and it is allowed to speak for itself. When Heaven and Earth Changed Places explains a very complicated situation and underlying reasons that American soldiers couldn't recognize the enemy and their methods couldn't match the commitment of the North Vietnamese. It shows how technological advantage and superior gun powder can't overcome one's love of home and the need to defend it. Le Ly fled to the States and then returned to reunite with her family twenty years later. Her mother is still alive and her siblings rise to the occasion in unpredictable ways. But there's a kind of completion, a unity of spirit, despite the loss of tradition, ancestors, the father and the mutuality of village life. This book neither resolves nor concludes, but it gives hope we can survive, and even thrive, when we proceed with our best intentions.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. War questions reconciled! By Dale Griggs To the Vietnam Veteran Li Ly Hayslip gives priceless insight into the mind of the enemy we fought and the villagers we tried to help. Being a Viet Cong spy and villager herself Ms Hayslip reveals the mindset of a people we could not hope to understand even if we served ten tours. Taught from birth the ideals of the importance of Mother Earth, ancestral accomplishments and sacrifices and village life and tradition, coupled with over one hundred years of oppression perpetrated by colonial masters, the Vietnamese people could do none else but support those who promised cultural freedom and self governance. As a Vietnam War Veteran my struggles with many issues have been reconciled by this frank account of what it was really all about. Thank You, Ms Hayslip. Sgt. Dale V. Griggs Vietnam, 1969-1972

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A radically different view of Vietnamese culture By tspia 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.

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.

From Library Journal Hayslip, who grew up in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, here recounts her heart-rending experiences. A pawn of both sides in the conflict, she endures rape, torture, and imprisonment before fleeing to the United States. Told in a series of flashbacks during a return trip to her homeland in 1986, the account jumps abruptly from present to past and back again with little or no transitional bridges. Nancy Kwan provides an excellent reading, but despite her best efforts, the story line remains difficult to follow. Oliver Stone's recent film version of this story, starring Tommy Lee Jones as Hayslip's U.S. Marine husband (Between Heaven and Earth), may stir patron demand. Suitable for history and biography collections and wherever patron demand warrants. - Miriam Kahn, Columbus, Ohio Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A wonderful, wondrous book by a remarkable woman." Amy Tan, author of The Joy Luck Club "Touching and illuminating . . . lucid, lyrical . . . a searing and human account." New York Times Book "Should not be missed by anyone . . . No one who reads it will ever be able to think about the Vietnam War in quite the same way again." Washington Post "Riveting and historic . . . engrossing and beautifully told . . . impossible to put down." San Francisco Chronicle About the Author Le Ly Hayslip (born Phng Th L L) is a Vietnamese-American memoirist and humanitarian.