



## **Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God, a Broken Mother's Search for Hope**

*Christopher Yuan, Angela Yuan, Kay Warren (Foreword)*

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Coming out, Then coming home. "Christopher, you must choose! You must choose the family or choose homosexuality.' He looked at me and said, 'It's not something I can choose. I am gay. If you can't accept me, then I have no other choice but to leave.'"

Christopher Yuan, the son of Chinese immigrants, discovered at an early age that he was different. He was attracted to other boys. As he grew into adulthood, his mother, Angela, hoped to control the situation. Instead, she found that her son and her life were spiraling out of control, and her own personal demons were determined to defeat her. Years of heartbreak, confusion, and prayer followed before the Yuans found a place of complete surrender, which is God's desire for all families. Their amazing story, told from the perspectives of both mother and son, offers hope for anyone affected by homosexuality. God calls all who are lost to come home to him, and he wants everyone to pursue holy sexuality. Out of a Far Country speaks to prodigals, parents of prodigals, and those wanting to minister to the gay community. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." - Luke 15:20

## **Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God, a Broken Mother's Search for Hope Details**

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## **From Reader Review Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God, a Broken Mother's Search for Hope for online ebook**

### **Karen L. says**

This is an absolutely wonderful true story of a mother's steadfast faith for her son to come to Christ. I read the book in one day. I could not put it down till I finished it. I so want to be like this mother (when it comes to prayer). She had a sort of prayer closet where she kept her bible and a list of things to be thankful for. She never let herself get discouraged in prayng for her son Christopher. She persevered even through his time of being emersed in the promiscuous sex and drug scene. This book was just what I needed to motivate me to not give up in praying for some of the difficult things that I face.

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### **Matt says**

I started reading this book just before Easter Sunday, and the timing couldn't have been better. Anyone who would dismiss the Yuans' testimony as "homophobic" or "anti-gay propaganda" -- most likely because they refuse to read past the cover -- are missing a beautiful story about a parent's love for her child and God's love for us. But it's more than that. "Out of a Far Country" reminds us that we're all prodigals, and that the God of the Bible is alive and changing lives. To know Him is to experience life change.

Don't write this off as a "gay man goes straight" book. It's not. Christopher Yuan left his home and his family and ended up chasing numerous idols: money, fame, drugs, pleasure. He ended up in prison. When he came to the end of himself, he found Christ. His mother Angela, who became a Christian herself in the days following her son's flight from home, never gave up on him or stopped praying for his salvation.

Yuan concludes by talking about "holy sexuality" -- for the homosexual Christian, heterosexuality should not be the goal, but obedience and faithfulness to God, he says. When he asks himself that question, the reader is prompted to follow suit: "What do I think I can't live without?" Do we believe the Lord is sufficient?

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### **Havebooks Willread says**

This was a relatively quick read as it's written in a conversational tone, but some of the subject matter made it a rather tough read. I am glad they shared their stories, both his of falling into the depths of depravity (homosexual promiscuous lifestyle, drug use, partying, drug dealing) which resulted in contracting the HIV virus and prison, and his mother's journey of despair over her son's choices to the point of considering suicide, and then coming to a faith in the Lord and dedicating herself to loving and praying for her son and trying to share her faith with him. I guess as a mother my heart related to her heartbreak as she had to watch him make horrible choice after horrible choice while she stood by helpless to control the situation. At the same time, I was thankful for his honesty in sharing where his head was during that time, even if I didn't always understand it.

I appreciated his mother's comparison between her own sin and Christopher's:  
"God really had brought me a long way in just a few years. In the past, I would have been full of shame that my son was in such trouble with the school. But since coming to Christ and realizing my own brokenness

and need for forgiveness, I knew that Christopher's rebellion was really no different than my own sins. It was just that Christopher's were more obvious. We're all sinners, and knowing that helped me stop worrying about what other people thought" (72).

And I thought Christopher's realizations about homosexuality being an idol that he elevated above Jesus as he came to a faith in Christ:

"After that, I turned to the Bible alone and went through every verse, every chapter, every page of Scripture looking for biblical justification for homosexuality. I couldn't find any. I was at a turning point, and a decision had to be made. Either abandon God to live as a homosexual--by allowing my feelings and sexual passions to dictate who I was. Or abandon homosexuality--by liberating myself from my feelings--and live as a follower of Jesus Christ" (186).

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### **Dave Crooks says**

I read this book a couple years back and still have some thoughts that I think ought to be shared. This was a pretty bold book on Yuan's part because of the detailed personal testimony that he shared. I appreciated his honesty and I appreciate his transparency, overall. However, 2 years later, what sticks in my mind about this book is that I don't think I'd recommend it to someone struggling with SSA simply because Yuan shares many detailed stories about his former life that are so vivid that at times it felt like I was reading a homosexual romance novel. Not that he was condoning those experiences, he was writing about them in a negative light! But the detail is overwhelming.

I'm glad for the influence that Yuan has had in recent years and for the many people who have been helped by his ministry and writing. No doubt by the many positive reviews, that many have been helped tremendously by this particular book. The book overall is a helpful tool and I'm sure will continue to be. But if you are going to read it you do need to be prepared for these detailed testimonies. As someone who is a recovered drug-addict working in full-time ministry to addicts I understand the pressure to gain credibility by sharing details of my past but I also understand that if I go into too much detail some will stumble over the powerful images and emotions that will be stoked. There is a way to share a testimony and be "credible" without it being overkill. That's my biggest critical point in this book, it seems to me to cross the line. I found myself saying in my head "Okay, I get it, you were a homosexual, let's move on."

I would expect that many who struggle with SSA will be helped by this biographical account and those who don't struggle with it but want to understand the issue will also benefit. But I also expect that some who struggle with SSA will stumble over these sections of personal testimony which have, in my opinion, a greater likelihood of plunging readers into homosexual fantasy than they do of leading them away from it. Proceed with caution.

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### **Michael Brown says**

Ever read a book that just oozes hope and grace? Well, Out of the Far Country is that book. It's a book for those who've given up hope that their child will find God. It's a book that shatters stereotypes. I would have to say it's the most powerful book I have read this year.

Out of the Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God. A Broken Mother's Search for Hope by Christopher

and Angela Yuan is a book you will be compelled to read in one sitting. I know I was – I was up until 2AM reading it – and I had a test the next day.

Chris and his mother Angela tag team throughout, going back and forth telling their story and inviting you to see how God used Chris' coming out to his parents to not just save his parent's marriage, but to lead his mother's father, his mom, his dad, and Chris himself to the loving arms of Christ.

I have heard Chris' testimony in one of my college courses, but I wasn't ready for the brutal honesty that Chris and his mother share throughout this book. They pull no punches.

From dental school student to drug dealer, from prisoner to being diagnosed as HIV positive, to the long journey home both physically and spiritually. From no hope to true hope from death to life from the shattered family to a true movement of grace and a restored family, it is all here.

Chris also introduces his concept of "Holy Sexuality," using our sexuality to honor God either in a male-female marriage relationship or in celibacy.

This book is about a gay son's journey to God and a family's search for hope. Yet if you only allow this book to speak to that, you've missed the point. This is a great book – a great testimony – of the faithfulness of God in the life of a wayward family member. No matter how far they go – God can still work a miracle. He did so in Yuan's life and he can in your life as well.

I would recommend this book to anyone (Use your own discretion with younger readers), especially one who is struggling to keep the hope alive that their prodigal would come home.

From Third Option Men

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### **Jennifer Wilson says**

To call a book a "must read" may sound cliché, but I skipped lunch and dinner to finish this book in one day. As an avid reader, I often read a book and then not think much more about it, but this book is so amazing it will be one I never forget.

As it starts, Christopher Yuan admits he is a homosexual to his parents. His mother, Angela, in a desperate attempt to "fix" him, tells him he needs to change or leave forever. Christopher decides to leave, and Angela realizes she made a mistake and goes on a relentless pursuit of him, as does God for the both of them.

This book is not your typical church testimony. There are drugs, homosexuality, HIV, and a prison sentence. But this was Christopher's life.

Early in the book Angela becomes a Christian. She prays fervently for her son who rejects both her and her God. Until he reaches rock bottom and lands in prison for drug dealing. At which point he starts reading the Bible and even playing piano for a men's prison choir.

This book is full of coincidences. Or more likely God opportunities. When Christopher is going to be released from prison and wants to go to Bible college and his parents meet the president of Moody Bible Institute is just one of these amazing events.

While this book would be a great resource to those in the middle of these issues (drugs, homosexuality, or the parent of someone dealing with these issues), that's not the core focus of this book, in my opinion. To me, it's how God can change someone's life even when you think that would be the last person to allow God to change them.

Christopher mentions the verse Acts 17:28 "For in him we live and move and have our being." He says that Christ is above all, he isn't defined by anything except that he is a child of God, and the goal of the Christian life is holiness.

As for marriage in his future? Christopher says that he used to think he needed to be attracted to women to desire marriage, but he has realized he only needs to be attracted to one woman. The chapter entitled "Holy Sexuality" is alone worth the price of this book.

I enjoyed how Angela would write one chapter, and Christopher would write the next. It flowed well and it was wonderful to see the events from each of their perspectives.

This is definitely one of the best books I have ever read. I hope that both Christopher and Angela Yuan will write more in the future. I hope to see this book become an instant Christian classic. It is a book that is sorely needed today, and it even includes a study guide should it wish to be read and discussed in a small group setting.

FTC Disclosure: I received a copy of the book "Out of a Far Country" by the publisher. I read the entire book, and the opinions about it are mine. In no way did receiving the book for free influence my opinion.

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### **Amy says**

I read the book cover to cover in two hours. How should Christians approach the issue of homosexuality? In our twisted, broken world we throw around a lot of lingo. We elevate certain sins. We lose perspective and control.

Christopher Yuan and his mother Angela record a story of brokenness and healing. It is not only the story of one man's struggle with homosexuality, but his struggle with sin. It is his Mother's battle to surrender.

This is a book Christians should read. It doesn't compromise from the truth, but it challenges. It encourages a grace filled mindset and a mercy saturated heart without straying from the reality of homosexuality and addiction.

Highly recommended.

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### **Misti says**

Christopher Yuan co-wrote his story of redemption and grace from the clutches of sin, specifically homosexuality and drug abuse, with his mother Angela in this prodigal son memoir.

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## **Becky Willey says**

### **Wow!**

What an amazing true story! I couldn't put it down! Love the message this young man has to share. Also, love how it opened my eyes to the plight of so many suffering around me. I was challenged to live and pray more for those around me who are struggling with the crippling strongholds of sin. God is a merciful redeemer and He desires that all would come to Him! Also inspired to pray more for my adult children. Wow! So good!

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## **Rachael Settles says**

I think this story says so much about how God is not judging & a very important reminder to us to be the same!

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## **Cherie says**

This book will not give you any new insight, if you believe one way, you will still at the end of the book. Here's page 188: The idea that I might marry a woman had seemed like an impossibility-though God could do the impossible. But the truth was, I did not need to be attracted to women, I needed only to be attracted to one woman. Heterosexuality is a broad term that focuses on sexual feelings and behaviors toward the opposite gender. It included lust, adultery and sex before marriage-all sins according to the bible. God calls married people to something more specific- holy sexuality. Holy sexuality means focusing all our sexual feelings and behaviors toward one person, our spouse. This is the main character, after he finds god, in prison. So if again, if you believe you should change who you are in order to walk with god, you will get confirmation. If you think otherwise, the book may just make you shake your head.

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## **Alicia says**

I entered to win this book through a Goodreads giveaway because I was very curious about whether it would seriously deal with the issue of being a gay Christian, or if rather the co-author decided that being gay and being Christian were not possible at the same time. His explanation of his choice was clear, and he made the best choice for himself. It doesn't matter whether I agree with his choice or not -- he and his mother had the courage to put everything out there in hopes that it could help others and lead them to Christ. Good for them!

So ends my positive reaction to the book. I have always had a problem with Christian ministry that hammers on homosexuality when Jesus was never quoted saying anything about it...don't you think he would have since he repeatedly mentioned divorce was a terrible thing (clearly no one has heard that part)? And don't even get me started on the language translation of the word "homosexual" in the Bible. Granted, Chris' choice wasn't coerced, but it is not and should not be held up as the "ideal" choice. It's just one option.

It's true from His teachings that promiscuity and drugs will lead you down the path to destruction, which Chris' life proved. I was overjoyed that the power of God was able to heal him. But that lifestyle and

homosexuality are obviously not tied together, because there are so many more heterosexuals who go down that path. Just take the book at face value and you'll at least get to learn how one man came to God from the depths of hell.

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### **Natalie Vellacott says**

This Christian biography proves that no one is out of God's reach. It is never too late to repent and start again.

The story is told from the perspectives of both mother and son. The mother turns to God in desperation for her son who is living a lavish lifestyle with many vices. It seems at various points in this story that there is no hope for Christopher who dices with death on many occasions and ends up in prison.

In the end, though, it is a story of hope and forgiveness and the power of God to intervene in seemingly impossible situations. A modern day "prodigal son" story dealing with tough issues including drug addiction and homosexuality.

Recommended for Christian adult readers who want to reach out to those struggling, or for those who face these struggles themselves. Some of the content is shockingly graphic in places so I wouldn't recommend for younger readers.

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### **Cinnamon Wolfe says**

This book was good, not the absolute best, well written book of all time but that doesn't really matter because the subject matter was so interesting. Being a Christian in the world today, there is a lot of societal pressure to conform to the popular notions that are gaining momentum all around us. Knowing what the Bible says is one thing, living it is another. While we all have our "cross to bear" so to speak, having same sex desires is not something I personally have ever had to deal with, so I wanted to read this to hear the perspective of someone who had.

I feel the book could have been organized a little differently and honestly I felt it was too short. The focus is mostly on Christopher's drug addiction and dealing and does not quite focus much on his gay lifestyle. However, I think that it is probably mostly unnecessary. The book is meant to focus on the fact that Chris lived a life of sin (like we all do) he was forgiven and redeemed (like we all can be through the cross of Christ.)

The absolute best part of this book for me was the very end, where Christopher boldly addresses his thoughts on homosexual behavior and Christianity. He never once denies that he was "born gay" or with same sex attraction, however he does discuss the fact that it has not been scientifically determined to be a DNA trait. Regardless of all that he claims brilliantly that the "goal" is not to "become" heterosexual, as is often misunderstood in discussions on the subject. When Christians are perceived to be "attacking" "WHO" someone thinks they are, the actual message gets lost. Christopher's message states that sexuality does not DEFINE you. Any more than which food you like or the books you like to read or the way you drive. Behavior is separate. The goal should be (for everyone) holy sexuality. Sexuality that is adhered to as instructed in the bible. This is a much bigger issue than simply same sex attraction or homosexual behavior. We are ALL predisposed to sin and to turn our backs from God. We are all, in essence, "born that way."

But we do have choices in our behavior and obedience. I think his perspective really opened my eyes in ways that hadn't before and I am very glad I read this book for that reason. I believe Christopher Yuan and his mother Angela are being used very powerfully by God for the glory of his Kingdom!

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### **NinaB says**

I've been wanting to read this book after Rosaria Butterfield mentioned Chris Yuan in an article I read by her. It's a fascinating autobiography of Mr Yuan and his faithful mom who loved him unconditionally when he rejected her reaching out to him, when he was engrossed in his sinful drug-addicted, homosexual lifestyle. Mrs. Yuan is a great encouragement to those moms with prodigal children. Her faithfulness in prayer and unceasing pursuit of her lost son were truly inspiring.

Only sin could make one devolve from an upper-middle class dental student to an incarcerated, HIV-positive felon. And only God's grace could save him from there to a transformed life of forgiveness, redemption, reconciliation and holy sexuality.

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### **Terri Lynn says**

What homophobic rot! This woman's son was BORN gay and he was aware of it. In recent years, medical research has shown a biological basis for homosexuality. The real shame and disgrace is that people cling to old myths like christian mythology and believe that it is a "sin" and try to change those who are gay. I have a news flash people- there was NO historical Jesus. I am an historian and can say that there is not one shred of historical evidence and in fact, the entire Jesus myth was entirely borrowed from much older myths. Pick up a copy of Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy's THE JESUS MYSTERIES The Jesus Mysteries: Was the "Original Jesus" a Pagan God? to see in detail more information about that.

This book makes a presumption that there was a Jesus when there was not and that being born gay was really a choice when it was not. It is offensive, insulting, arrogant, bigoted, and ugly to the core. In other words, the backwards, ignorant Christian Taliban types will love it.

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### **Sara says**

A good friend encouraged me to read Out of a Far Country, a book I would probably not have otherwise chosen. I'm so glad she did. What a beautiful true story of a mother's persevering love, and of God's boundless mercy and goodness. Thank you, C., for sharing this book with me! Excellent.

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### **Jon says**

A remarkable and very honest story of fall and redemption. Horrible and beautiful in all the right places.

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## **Kym McNabney says**

I came across OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY by CHRISTOPHER YUAN AND ANGELA YUAN on Amazon. I was intrigued, and wanted to get a better understanding of what a gay man goes through, as well as his parents. Discovering Christianity was involved, sealed the deal.

OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY sat on my bookshelf for months. While at a meeting at church, a man that joined our group mention a book a friend of his wrote that may be of interest, seeing we were involved in the prison and jail ministry. The title he mentioned sounded familiar, along with the author. When I returned home I rushed to my bookshelf to see if it were indeed the same book, and to my delight it was.

The very next day I began to read OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY. Each morning I read a chapter out of my Bible, a chapter of non-fiction, and fiction throughout the day. OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY is like no other non-fiction I can recall reading. I couldn't put it down. It's probably the faster I've read a non-fiction book.

Christopher Yuan had a secret, one he'd been carrying around for some time. When he decided to reveal that secret, that he's gay, his mother shows him the door.

Angela Yuan loves her son, but being gay... Her first instinct is to give him an ultimatum. Be straight or get out. Angela was consumed with depression, disappointment, and sense of hopelessness. With every intention of ending her life, she sets out to say her good-byes to her son.

OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY is a quick, easy read that is well written. One you will have a hard time putting down. I loved going from Christopher's point-of-view to Angela's. I even learned something new about an old song.

This book is several stories in one:

- A gay mans journey in life.
- A mother's journey with a gay son.
- A journey through addictions.
- A journey through imprisonment.
- A redemption of a marriage.
- The journey of faithless to faithfulness.

I highly recommend OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY to everyone, whether you know someone who is gay, you are, or aren't a Christian, you know someone that's incarcerated, you know someone that has little hope in their marriage, or someone with an addiction. This is a true story of hope and redemption.

My hope is that people will pickup and read this book despite...or maybe because of, the gay aspect.

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### **Margaret says**

Such a fantastic book. An amazing journey to finding his identity in Christ rather than his sexuality. I have watched some of the author's videos and he is a speaker worth listening to. His testimony and life is so integral to this subject.

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