



# Lulu in the Sky: A Daughter of Cambodia Finds Love, Healing, and Double Happiness

*Loung Ung*

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**Lulu in the Sky: A Daughter of Cambodia Finds Love, Healing, and Double Happiness** Loung Ung  
Concluding the trilogy that started with the bestselling memoir *First They Killed My Father*, Loung Ung describes her college experience and her first steps into adulthood, revealing her struggle to reconcile with her past while moving forward towards happiness. After the violence of the Khmer Rouge and the difficult assimilation experience of a refugee, Loung's daily struggle to keep darkness, anger, and depression at bay will finally find two unexpected allies: the empowering call of activism, and the redemptive power of love. *Lulu in the Sky* is the story of Loung's journey to a Cambodian village to reconnect with her mother's spirit; to a vocation that will literally allow her to heal the landscape of her birth; and to the transformative influence of a supportive marriage to a loving man.

## **Lulu in the Sky: A Daughter of Cambodia Finds Love, Healing, and Double Happiness Details**

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Author : Loung Ung

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## **From Reader Review Lulu in the Sky: A Daughter of Cambodia Finds Love, Healing, and Double Happiness for online ebook**

### **Carol K says**

An excellent book - gives a real understanding of the power of games, and how the knowledge of what makes them work can be harnessed to do good in the world. A positive future ahead if these ideas can be put into practice on the huge scale suggested.

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### **Suzanne says**

*"Probably to many in the world, this patch of earth was just another village among many small, dusty villages. And at first glance, like many small villages, it looked impoverished, crowded, and populated with thatched roof huts built on wooden stilts. But if visitors were to stay, if they learned to navigate around half-naked toddlers, squawking chickens, wandering pigs, and barking dogs to our psah, our outdoor market, and meet the people who called this place home, they would change their minds."*

A few months ago I read and reviewed Loung Ung's excellent and heartbreakng memoir, *First They Killed My Father*. A refugee from Cambodia's killing fields, Ung was a "lucky" member of her family, one of only a handful that were able to emigrate to the United States. As is revealed in *Lulu in the Sky*, Ms. Ung still had many obstacles to overcome in order to make peace with her past.

As you can tell from the first paragraph, Loung Ung has a gift for writing and story-telling. There is such a terrific sense of place in her writing, which is rich, warm and even humorous at times. *Lulu in the Sky* is the continuation of Ms. Ung's story, beginning in her college years, when she tries hard to be the independent American girl. Unfortunately, her harrowing past continues to cause her to shy away from getting too close to people. Honest and forthright, Loung Ung's memoir is an excellent look at one young woman's journey from fear and alienation to courageous independence and finally, love.

This book is important not just for Ms. Ung's personal story, but to make everyone aware of the horrors and after-affects of war. Given her talent, I sincerely hope she continues writing. Perhaps historical fiction will enable her to continue to be a voice for the millions who live in fear as a result of war. 3 1/2 stars.

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### **Nancy A Faussett says**

The last book in her autobiography.... an excellent read...

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### **Sandy Heng says**

I received this book free thru Goodreads First Reads Giveaway.

When I first saw this book as a giveaway I entered it as fast as I can. I think there were only about 5 copies

they were giving away and I prayed that I would win it and I did. The reason why I entered for this book was because since I'm a Cambodian person myself, I'm more than willing to learn more about my culture. If you don't know by now, Cambodia was torn by war and my parents were actually part of it when Cambodia was invaded. They were able to escape and come to the United States to have me. When I was old enough I was able to find out what happened to Cambodia and why my parents had to leave their hometown in the first place. After that I never asked them what happened because even though my parents never said "I don't want to talk about it" I can feel their uneasiness so I let it go. *Lulu in the Sky* is a memoir about an actual Cambodian girl who survived the Khmer Rouge and was able to tell her story. By reading her story I was able to see the war from her eyes and I was also able to see how much she suffered when she came to the United States. I felt her pain as I read her story because one reason why she got into so many fights with her boyfriend now husband Mark was because she couldn't clear her mind of the war. I think my parents were like that too. I'll never miss a chance to find a book about my culture and read it. I was so happy I was one of the 5 who won this book and I hope I can find some more books about my culture.

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### **Jessica says**

*Lulu in the Sky* is the third book by Loung Ung and picks up when she is in college. Her first book *First They Killed My Father* talked about what Loung's childhood was like growing up in Cambodia and surviving the Khmer Rouge regime. At the end of that book she is able to escape Cambodia with her oldest brother and sister-in-law and come to America. In *Lucky Child* Loung talks about the hard adjustment she experiences coming to America and trying to fit into a new country and culture. So, in this book Loung talks about going away to college and falling in love. When she meets Mark he is the stereotypical all-American boy in her eyes who would never be interested in someone like her. But, Mark actually volunteered in a refugee camp in the Philippines so he knows more about her experiences than most Americans or college students. He wants to know her story, but it is still so painful for Loung to think about that she rarely talks about it. Over the course of their relationship Loung falls into depressions where she pulls away from everyone and pushes Mark away - mainly out of fear of getting too attached then losing him like she lost so many people in her family in Cambodia. Over time she begins to really try to heal first through therapy, then through anti-landmine activism work both in the US and in Cambodia. It is through her many visits back to Cambodia and her family there that she is finally able to work through all her emotions related to Mark and after a 10 year long distance relationship they finally marry in 2002.

I remember reading her first book probably not long after it was published and being so drawn into her story that I was so happy that she continued to write about her experiences. In *Lulu in the Sky* she also talks about her decision to start writing *First They Killed My Father* and how much that helped her heal. A great follow up to her other books.

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### **Lisa says**

Relatable (I'm obviously biased here), poignant, and hilarious -- all at once. In this third book, Ung delves deeper into her internal, personal struggles through assimilation that clash with her trying to live up to cultural traditions and familial upbringing. She finds her identity through her work as well as her past history. Her literary voice is both humble and thought-provoking as she carries the reader through her journey to finding and accepting love, and diving into activism to redeem the pain she suffered from her past. Absolutely inspirational and uplifting!

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### **Ashley Welch says**

When I began the final book to Ung's trilogy, I honestly questioned what more there really was to the story. I was of the mindset that this would just kind of reiterate the stories told in the first two books, but I was still curious. I'm so glad I read it. This book made me cry harder than the first two combined.

I have to credit Ung on her fact-checking and consistent use of historical references, but I also applaud her for her ability to tell her own history, and for having been able to rewrite her own story as she needed to. Damn. What a book.

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### **Orla Hegarty says**

The final book in this powerful trilogy gives witness to how Ms. Ung worked through the devastating trauma she and some of her family lived through.

I feel so grateful to have not only visited Cambodia but also to have then had the opportunity to get to know Ms. Ung and her family through these memoirs. It has added a deep and wide perspective to my life and activism that I will always cherish.

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### **Felecia Stuart says**

Loung has a way of making me go from crying on the train to a huge smile on my face within a span of 30 seconds. Her first book affected me for months. I couldn't read anything else, everywhere I turned I saw things that reminded me of her past, I would start crying at random times because I remembered something. I was heartbroken that this actually happened and that it was so recent. With each of her books, I find more inspiration in this woman. She's got an incredible story to tell and I think everyone needs to know it. So just read it.

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### **Baljit says**

Reading this final book in the trilogy makes me want to reread the first and second books. I get emotional picturing scene of Loung's mother telling Loung and her siblings to go away. This must have been so v hard fir mother, who instinctively wants to comfort and protect her young kids. And so hard for Loung to come to terms to, the feeling of abandonment lasts years. To be accepted in American society and given great opportunities is considered a lottery but your peers cannot phantom anything about where u have come from and the trauma you have been through, forces any young person to bury their pain in order to blend in and move forward.

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## **Patrick McCoy says**

I was curious to read Loung Ung's story about how she became an activist and how she came to write her first book, *First They Killed My Father*, in *Lulu in the Sky: A Daughter of Cambodia Find Love, Healing, and Double Happiness* (2014). However, I have to admit the first third of the book about her time at Saint Michael's College and her crush on classmate Mark (whom she eventually married) was a bit of a chore to get through. I thought it got more interesting when she recalled her experiences working for an anti-land mine NPO and returning to spend lengthy amounts of time in Cambodia to visit families and records stories of people who survived the genocide. I supposed the content of this book is far less dramatic than the previous two, but it is good to get a sense of closure about her experience of surviving the Khmer Rouge work camps to a happy successful life as a writer/activist and living with the trauma of surviving such horrific experiences.

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## **Candi Sary says**

*First they Killed My Father* is one of my favorite books. It's a heartbreakingly powerful memoir, but exceptionally powerful coming from a young girl's perspective of the Cambodian genocide. *Lulu in the Sky*, Ung's third memoir, is the story of her adult life, and how she finds her way toward healing. Her story is fascinating and she tells it with such honesty and heart. After all she had to endure as a child, I was happy to read that she found love with a kind and patient man, and that she eventually found her own sense of peace. I especially loved reading about her trips back to Cambodia. In her first book, the country was a terrifying place while the Khmer Rouge was in power. But in *Lulu in the Sky*, Ung returns to a peaceful place where life is simple, families are close, and the people are compassionate. There is a scene at a wedding where poor children come to eat the leftovers when the guests are done eating. Ung's auntie welcomes the children and gladly shares, even giving out plastic bags so they could take food home to their families. Ung's auntie tells her, "During Pol Pot time, I had nothing to eat so I know what hunger feels like." *Lulu in the Sky* shows how Ung uses her own knowledge of hunger and suffering to become an activist and a powerful voice for human rights. Loung Ung is an admirable woman and this is an admirable book. I'm grateful she chose to share her story with the world.

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## **Dina Tanners says**

I read the first two books by this author, the first of which tells of her horrific years of her childhood from ages 5 to 10 under the Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia. It is an extremely raw but powerful book told from the eyes of the child she was at that time.

The second book tells of her leaving for the US with her oldest brother as a refugee and parallel the life of her sister Chou who remained in Cambodia.

I was hesitant to read this book at first, thinking that it would just tell of a young girl, trying to forget the past and live in the US, but I was wrong. She tells of her struggle to live in the US, with her strong memories of the past haunting her. It tells of friendships, nightmares, and the way she finally put much of them to rest by writing her story. It tells of the strength she gained from her family in Cambodia (siblings, grandmother,

nieces, nephews, etc), and the amazingly supportive man who eventually became her husband, and finding her vocation in dealing with UXOS.

It is a powerful book and I strongly recommend it.

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### **George Lai says**

Just as good as her first two books and nicely links them all together.

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### **Allison Dunlap says**

A beautiful writer, an incredible journey, great lessons in bridging cultural differences and understanding a person's history,. An intimate glimpse into one woman's healing with universal application to all. I loved it.

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