



Lulu in the Sky

By Loung Ung
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Introduction

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.

Introduction

1. Would you agree or disagree that *Lulu in the Sky* is not only a love story about Loung Ung and Mark, but also Loung's love story with Cambodia, her mother, and herself?
2. Compared to her previous works, *Lulu in the Sky* has many moments when Loung shows her humorous and silly side. What do you believe her intention is in sharing this?
3. Why does Loung kept her relationship with Mark a secret from her family for ten years?
4. Loung tries to find "healing" in various forms'from activism to reconnecting with her family and returning to Cambodia. Does this work?
5. Who are some of the iconic women that have inspired Loung?
6. How is Loung able to reconcile the guilt of believing that her mother was weak and that she abandoned Loung?
7. Describe how and why the activist, American Loung is protective of her sister Chou and her Cambodian family.
8. What significance do the scenes pertaining to "fairy tales" and pop culture have in this book and Loung's life?

About the Author

An author, lecturer, and activist, Loung Ung has advocated for equality, human rights, and justice in her native land and worldwide for more than fifteen years. Ung lives in Cleveland, Ohio, with her husband.