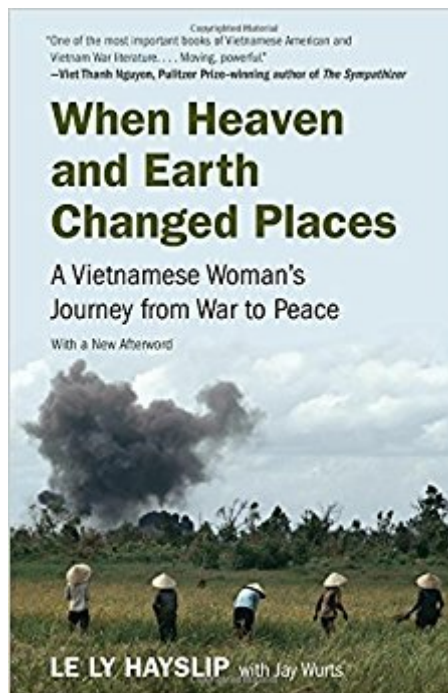




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When Heaven And Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey From War To Peace



Synopsis

“One of the most important books of Vietnamese American and Vietnam War literature...Moving, powerful.”
• Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer*
In these pages, Le Ly Hayslip—just twelve years old when U.S. helicopters landed in her tiny village of Ky La—shows us the Vietnam War as she lived it. Initially pressed into service by the Vietcong, Le Ly was captured and imprisoned by government forces. She found sanctuary at last with an American contractor and ultimately fled to the United States. Almost twenty years after her escape, Le Ly found herself inexorably drawn back to the devastated country and loved ones she’d left behind, and returned to Vietnam in 1986. Scenes of this joyous reunion are interwoven with the brutal war years, creating an extraordinary portrait of the nation, then and now—and of one courageous woman who held fast to her faith in humanity. First published in 1989, *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places* was hailed as an instant classic. Now, some two decades later, this indispensable memoir continues to be one of our most important accounts of a conflict we must never forget.

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Customer Reviews

Hayslip was born a Vietnamese peasant in 1949; little more than 20 years later she left for the United States with an American husband. Her early years were spent as a Viet Cong courier and lookout; a black marketeer; an unwed mother; a bar girl; a hospital aide; and (once) a prostitute. She was tortured by the South Vietnamese army, raped by Viet Cong, and harassed by Americans. This story is juxtaposed with the tale of her difficult return to Vietnam in 1986. Her account is a part

of the Vietnamese conflict that we seldom hear, of the survivors in the middle; it concludes with a plea for both sides to put the war behind them. Frankly written, moving, and meaningful, this is highly recommended for adult and academic collections.- Kenneth W. Berger, Duke Univ. Lib., Durham, N.C. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“One of the most important books of Vietnamese American and Vietnam War literature. . . . Moving, powerful.” • Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer* “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.” • The Washington Post “A wonderful, wondrous book by a remarkable woman.” • Amy Tan, author of *The Valley of Amazement* “Touching and illuminating . . . A searing and human account.” • The New York Times Book Review “Riveting and historic. . . . Engrossing and beautifully told. . . . Impossible to put down.” • San Francisco Chronicle

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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