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SPIRIT CATCHES YOU
AND YOU FALL DOWN

*A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors,
and the Collision of Two Cultures*

ANNE FADIMAN



WITH A NEW
AFTERWORD BY
THE AUTHOR

ISBN 0-14-026-000-0



Anne Fadiman

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures (FSG Classics)



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The Spirit Catches You and You COLLAPSE explores the clash between a small county hospital in California and a refugee family from Laos over the care of Lia Lee, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy. Lia's parents and her doctors both needed what was greatest for Lia, but the lack of understanding between them resulted in tragedy. The existing edition, published for the book's fifteenth anniversary, includes a new afterword by the author that provides updates on the main individuals along with reflections on how they have transformed Fadiman's life and attitudes. Champion of the National Publication Critics Circle Award for non-fiction, the LA Times Book Prize for Current Curiosity, and the Salon Book Award, Anne Fadiman's compassionate account of the cultural impasse is definitely literary journalism at its finest.



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20 years later- still so good! This book was written in 1997 and I first read it in nursing school.. The Hmong found America & I then experienced compelled to re-go through the book myself, and found that I've lent out my duplicate. It's been long more than enough that I'm guessing that I'm not really obtaining my copy back again- specifically since I don't recall who offers my copy! Awesome read, was necessary for a nursing class and I have read it a lot more than required. The publication is just that great. Anne Fadiman's book is actually engaging and just draws the reader in. Although "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" touches on so sensitive subjects, Anne Fadiman manages to illustrate the cultural differences therefore starkly that I finished up sense sympathetic to both western medical community that was attempting to take care of Lia Lee and also Lia's family and her community. incredibly interesting subject matter written about with such .I work as a nurse I often consider this book when I watch a new mom stuff cotton in her ears, put a towel over her head before going outside, reject a healthcare facility food and only broth and chicken brought in by family, or politely remind me again and again "No ice in the water please!". I honestly think this book should be needed reading for doctors, nurses, social employees, foster parents, etc. My major reason for 4 rather than 5 stars is that the writer sometimes goes on lengthy tangents that usually do not pace well. I was attracted to this book because I've a child who has already established seizures. Learning the viewpoint of another tradition toward epilepsy offered me higher understanding on facing such a disability. The girl's initial seizure happened when her sister slammed a door. It was truly amazing; Excellent example of the need for cultural competency in cultural services and medical fields, with multiple examples of how social employees and medical professionals can better provide a diverse population. I came to Amazon today to purchase another copy for myself. This is a required book for a psych nursing class. I quite appreciated it overall and have go through it twice today (once for class as soon as out of class.) Not to mention, there was a heavy dose of reality; I'll admit about halfway through the book that started to annoy me as I wanted to know what occurred with the family, so I went through and found/read the chapters on them, and went back and found/read the history chapters. Great book The book was great. Overall, that is an awesome publication for understanding cultural differences in the healthcare setting and what sort of little bit of effort into cultural understanding and vocabulary translating could drastically change the outcome for the individual and the family. It really tears into the ugliness of white saviorism, the problem of ego and emotional detachment in the medical field, and the Vietnam War. This was no enjoyable book to learn, nonetheless it was also challenging to place down. It's written a lot more like a dialogue between author and reader than a narrative. Although it's been almost twenty years, "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" is just as relevant now as it was when it had been written. the tale unfolded prior to the eyes of several Americans, some of whom wished it hadn't. There were a few sad parts, a few funny parts, and a good little fantasy (their shamans rode winged horses through a staircase to the 'sky-world' to discount for souls of the ill. It was really amazing; Though it had been emotionally intense, it had been not a ball-your-eyes-out sort of book. I liked it! The main story is approximately a sick little girl, but there's so much more to it. I learned more about the Vietnam Battle from this book than in any history course I've taken, which was my first launch to the Hmong people. history is expertly woven in to the pages. Most stories about tribes & clans are compiled by ppl who proceed thousands of miles away & get back to America to inform the story. In fact, I in some way mentioned the book to my mom in law and when I then found out she hadn't browse it, I purchased her a duplicate for Christmas.. It had been interesting to observe how the Hmong reacted to your own customs & habits, and even more interesting to read about theirs. It was unsettling to recognize the

different approaches to treatment and how cultural distinctions were/are not always recognized (to the advantage of the patient and their family). how these were treated when they came here, the easiest method to bridge the communication gap, welfare applications & care givers. extremely interesting subject matter written about with such eloquence. I'm hesitant to examine this book because I know I will not do it justice. The author has a unique method of writing, where a handful of chapters discuss the family and a couple chapters talk about the annals of the Hmong people; Based on the Hmong, the noisy sound scared her soul away, so she got unwell. It also does a great job at exploring complicated medical conditions, the frustration and heartbreak confronted by family and staff trying to find answers, and teaches the reader a great deal about the sides of epilepsy that tend to be overlooked or misunderstood. You can also get sick if you stage your finger at the full moon, pee on a rock that appears like a tiger, or wash your clothing in a lake w/ dragons. How do you describe pneumonia to ppl who don't know what lungs are!?! i purchased a copy for my partner. fascinating book. Mind opening This book examines the interface of some well-meaning healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, social workers etc., and a a Hmong family members and their young girl who has a serious seizure disorder the publication challenges the often unconscious assumption that Western medical thinking is the right way to believe Nice find great book great book great book and it came very fast No clue Hmmm. Awesome read, great print This is an incredible book, great read and good quality Filled with emotion and information! This is required reading for one of my social work classes. I hope that more recently cultural awariness in medical personnel and caregivers offers been recognized and is being put to make use of. The author shows the great harm that can be done by those with great intentions who aren't alert to particular cultural requirements and practices. Read this please if you are entering any medical field, especially if you're going to be operating in a location with varied ethnic populations. Hmong tradition & the justice system, the concerns of her doctors & Not enjoyable, but an attention-getter A real eyeopener to the Hmong lifestyle, the treating epilepsy and the many views of medical staff and caregivers. Most likely not what the writer or my instructor intended, but I still retained all the information and got 100% of the test questions on this book correct.Overall, an excellent & Ideal for College Book Report Listened to book to get a college book report on a class upon child welfare. Interesting perspective, because the age of the novel it is easy to do comparitve are well.



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