

PDF Free House of Sticks: A Memoir by Ly Tran

House of Sticks: A Memoir
By: Ly Tran


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One of Vogue and NPRs Best Books of the Year This beautifully writtenmasterclass in memoir (Elle) recounts a young girls journey from war-torn Vietnam to Queens, New York,showcas[ing] the tremendous power we have to alter the fates of others, step into their lives and shift the odds in favor of greater opportunity (Star Tribune, Minneapolis).Ly Tran is just a toddler in 1993 when she and her family immigrate from a small town along the Mekong river in Vietnam to a two-bedroom railroad apartment in Queens. Lys father, a former lieutenant in the South Vietnamese army, spent nearly a decade as a POW, and their resettlement is made possible through a humanitarian program run by the US government. Soon after they arrive, Ly joins her parents and three older brothers sewing ties and cummerbunds piece-meal on their living room floor to make ends meet. As they navigate this new landscape, Ly finds herself torn between two worlds. She knows she must honor her parents Buddhist faith and contribute to the family livelihood, working long hours at home and eventually as a manicurist alongside her mother at a nail salon in Brooklyn that her parents take over. But at school, Ly feels the mounting pressure to blend in. A growing inability to see the blackboard presents new challenges, especially when her father forbids her from getting glasses, calling her diagnosis of poor vision a government conspiracy. His frightening temper and paranoia leave a mark on Lys sense of self. Who is she outside of everything her family expects of her? Anunsentimental yet deeply moving examination of filial bond, displacement, war trauma, and poverty (NPR), House of Sticks is a timely and powerful portrait of one girls coming-of-age and struggle to find her voice amid clashing cultural expectations.


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