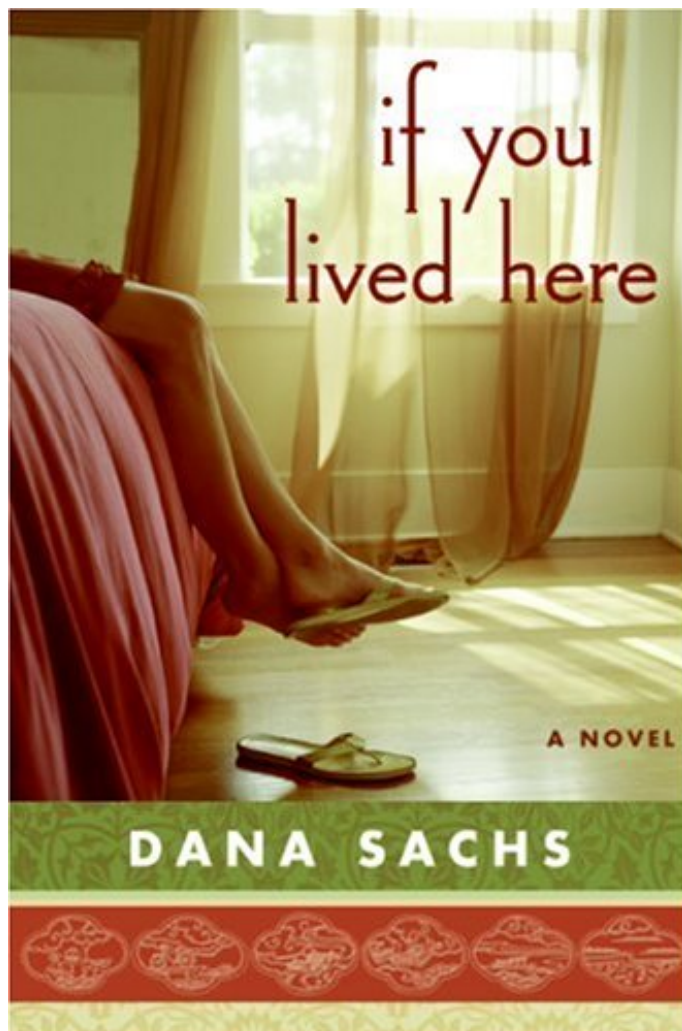


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**Dana Sachs**

**If You Lived Here**



Title: If You Lived Here

Author: Dana Sachs

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 336

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0061130486

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## Description

At forty-two, Shelley Marino desperately wants a child. Though she and her older husband, Martin, have tried during the course of their marriage, their only hope now is adoption. Martin, who has seen his share of heartbreak, can't reconcile what Shelley wants with what he knows about the world, and as the father of two grown children from a previous marriage, he is not sure he can bear the emotional challenge of fatherhood again. To love is to risk loss and Martin suddenly decides that is a gamble he can't afford to take.

The pain of great loss is something that Mai, a woman who emigrated from Vietnam more than twenty years ago, knows all too well. Though Mai has attained all of the accoutrements of the American dream—a healthy business, an SUV, a house of her own—she has not allowed herself to forget the family tragedy that forced her to leave Vietnam. She has distanced herself from her life and from everyone around her—until she meets Shelley. Their budding friendship forces Mai to make a decision that will put her face-to-face with the world she left behind so long ago. And in the course of the journey the two women must make together, Shelley, too, confronts choices that will reverberate for the rest of her life.

Lyrical and moving, *If You Lived Here* takes the reader on a journey as well, from loss to love, and shows how new beginnings can heal old wounds.

## Insightful reviews

Linda: A member of my book club chose this book. I doubt if I would have read it on my own; however, I enjoyed the book once I got into it. It's about marriage, motherhood, friendship, and forgiveness. I realize I've read very few books in which a character was Vietnamese, so a lot of information was new and interesting to me.

Lailani: Another quick read for summer. I enjoyed the two narrators, the differences in life bridged by a vietnamese adoption, the healing of wounds for two with a past in vietnam, etc. . .

I enjoyed being introduced more to the Vietnamese culture and another aspect of international adoption.

Great story!

Mel: At first, I found this book difficult to get into. The writing style seemed wordy and it took awhile to get used to the plot being written in present tense. Three chapters in I found myself sucked into Shelley and Xuan Mai's stories.

Shelley is the wife of a mortician. They have been trying to adopt a child from another country.

Xuan Mai is a Vietnamese immigrant who left Vietnam at the end of the 1970s. She fled the country for personal reasons and lives an isolated life.

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Though Shelley story is the basis of the book, I found Xuan Mai far more interesting. Her personal history and how she plays off Shelley makes this story work.

This is a pretty good look into the complexities of foreign adoption. It's an emotional, complicated process, which sometimes leaves couples with nothing.

I'm glad I didn't give up on this one. It turned out to be a very well written book.

Kim Fay: each time i feel approximately this novel, i believe approximately how after I learn it, I gave it to my mom, pondering she could additionally take pleasure in it. i used to be right. Days later my mother known as to say, "What a stunning book." whereas this won't be commonplace literary feedback vocabulary, it's the one note for me that defines Dana Sachs's writing: lovely. She writes with such quiet authority, for that reason a few couple adopting a toddler from Vietnam. Sachs is aware Vietnam good -- she has lived there greater than once, written a publication on Operation Babylift or even made a movie concerning the state along with her sister. yet it isn't her services during this quarter that makes this ebook so fulfilling. (That's the icing at the cake.) it is the manner she explores culture, longing and love. a person can have made this a booklet concerning the issues among the couple selecting to adopt, and whereas that performs into this story, it really is way more exciting because it pairs Shelley, the girl wanting to undertake a tender Vietnamese boy, together with her newfound pal Mai (a girl who fled a painful prior in Vietnam), who is of the same opinion to go back and forth together with her again to Vietnam for the adoption. This journey, either emotionally and geographically, presents the enjoyable middle of the novel, let alone a lot to discuss along with your subsequent e-book club.

Ashley Bedford: enjoyed the plot line, i used to be fairly stored guessing the full time what the result of either one of the intertwined tales might be. I particularly enjoyed the bits of Vietnamese culture, food, tradition, and language that additional loads of richness to the setting. cannot pronounce any of the words, yet I enjoyed analyzing them in my Anglicized silent analyzing voice!

Jeana: there have been a few issues i actually beloved approximately this e-book after which each as soon as in a while, anything concerning the writing would not ring true. it really is difficult to place my finger on precisely what afflicted me. i actually beloved Mai's tale and cared rather a lot extra approximately her and the solution of her tale than Shelley's. whatever approximately Shelley used to be simply unlikeable to me, as a reader. Still, this e-book was once relatively well-written and it used to be an attractive viewpoint on Vietnam and the aftermath of the war.

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