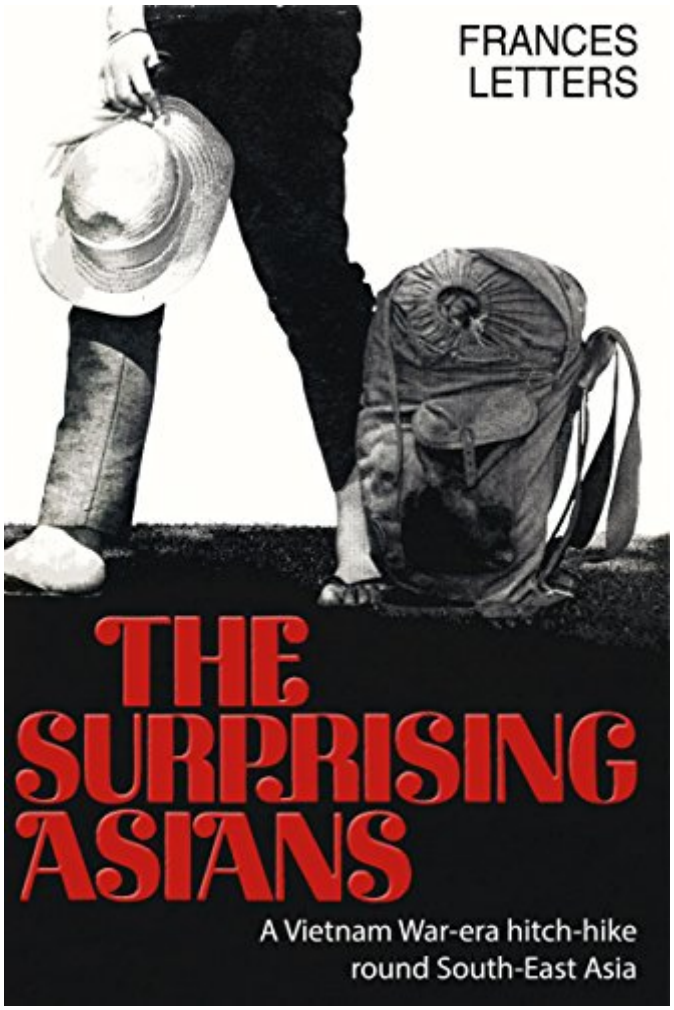
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The Surprising Asians: A Vietnam War-era Hitch-hike Round Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia And South Vietnam



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Ëœ The Surprising AsiansÃ¢â ¬â„¢ was a trigger for many young AustraliansÃ¢â ¬â„¢ discovery of Asia, according to ABC Radio NationalÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Hindsight program Asia OverlandÃ¢â ¬â œÃ¢â ¬â œAdventures on the Hippie Trail. (2009-2014)Are you one of those quarter-million teenagers who read this book for School Certificate English in the 1960s and 1970s? Or later for Asian Studies?Did it fire you, too, with a longing to travel? It was craving for freedom and adventure in faraway lands that had set this Australian girl off to hitch-hike round SE Asia, including wartime South Vietnam. If you missed that moment of teenage inspiration, you can capture it now.With what The Age called Ã¢â ¬Ëœa kind of fresh, unbiased and often hilarious wonderÃ¢â ¬â„¢, the book tells of adventures on the road in SE Asia at a time when few Westerners ventured there.Hitching rides on everything from bullock carts to army trucks, the author stayed in temples, police stations, and above all, the homes of people rich and poor who gathered her up. After six months another Australian girl joined her. To the distant rumble of bombing on the Ho Chi Minh trail, they hitched through Laos and Cambodia to South Vietnam.No one they met seemed to have the Ã¢â ¬Ëœinscrutable Oriental mindÃ¢â ¬â„¢ theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢d grown up expecting. At every turn they found extraordinary kindness and generosity. People proved to be intriguing, idiosyncratic, serious, funnyÃ¢â ¬Â¦and all fascinatingly different. In other words, normal human beings.

Book Information

File Size: 12582 KB

Print Length: 218 pages

Publisher: Angus & Robertson (March 20, 2016)

Publication Date: March 20, 2016

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01D82N0NU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #744,997 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #40 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Asia > Laos #65 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Asia > Singapore #92 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Asia > Cambodia

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