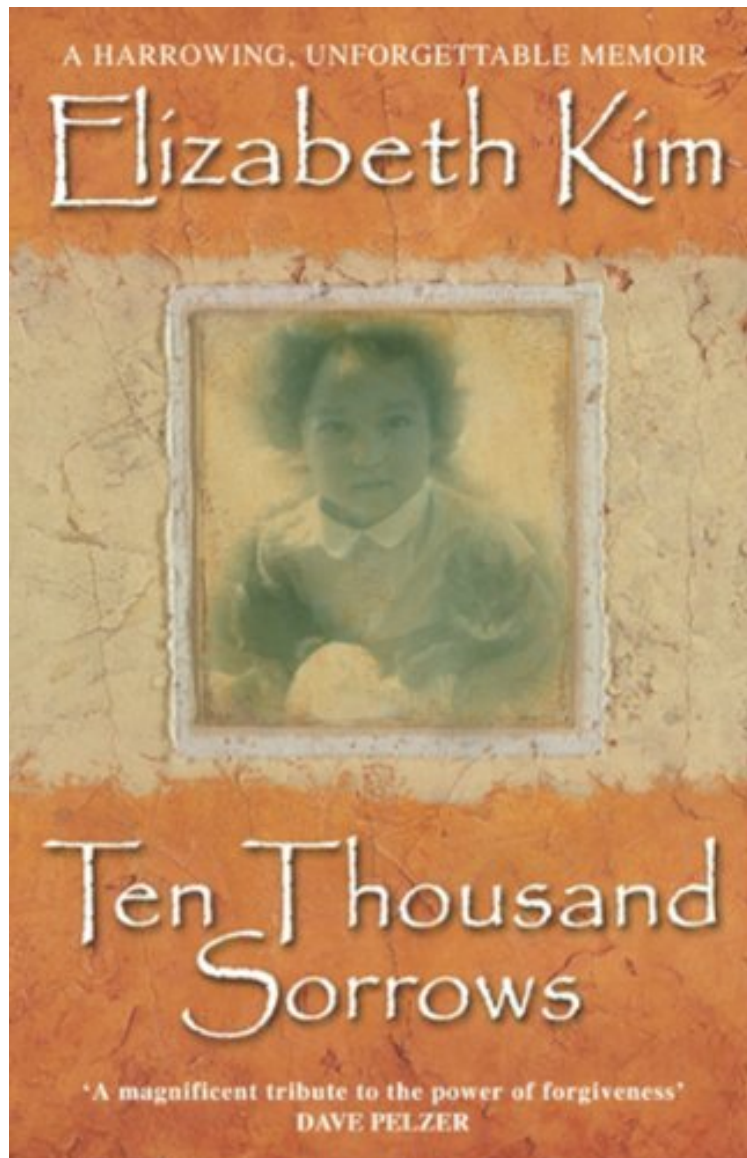


Ten Thousand Sorrows

Von Elizabeth Kim

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Von Elizabeth Kim : Ten Thousand Sorrows before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ten Thousand Sorrows:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Powerful and Engaging: Human StoryVon T. KimThis is a superb and excellent book that I enjoyed immensely because of the author's willingness to completely share her very personal story.Hers is one important story of the

200,000 children of Korean descent who were adopted overseas. Elizabeths dual voices show: the professional journalist voice in the clarity and depth of her narrative and the poets voice that transforms her work into one that shows the reflecting pool of her life in its many subtleties and textures. It is the storm of chance that creates and propels Elizabeths life. Through her narrative, we can imagine Elizabeth as a child born into difficult circumstances (a mixed race child in Korea), adopted by American parents who are exceptionally difficult, and her difficult and torturous adulthood. After reading the book, I imagined Elizabeths story as one of a little girl rowing in a small dinghy caught in a storm of biblical proportions: lightening flashing, sea sick high waves, driving sheets of rain, and violent and shrieking winds. We root for her as she rows forward through the storm of life; we cringe with fear on her behalf on the battering that she takes from the life waves; and we applaud her search for the calm seas and the shores of sanity. The warm glow from her birth mothers spirit is the lodestar that guides Elizabeth, and this spirit provides us hope that perhaps there is a whisper of chance that Elizabeth will arrive on the shores of sanity and love. As I read the book, I feared for Elizabeth, the child and the adult, and hoped that her experiences in her tortuous life have not embittered her, that her scars both physical and emotional have healed. Perhaps that is too much, for surely her experiences would have left most of us bitter, angry, and emotionally distant. Perhaps the great emotional wounds that she has suffered neither the time of healing or even the healing herbs of the Centaur would provide the necessary healing properties. And against all hope, against all logic, against all reason, we find out if Elizabeth triumphs and provides us, the reader, that most important and wonderful graces that life provides us: hope. With all my being and soul, I believe that Elizabeths birth mothers spirit would be both happy and proud of her achievements in life and this wondrous book.

Peter K. Kwak 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Legacy of a 1,000 year old Confucianism Von Roy Nam Honor killing was very widely practiced in Korea for the last 1,000 years - especially during and after the Confucian "Chosun" Dynasty (1392-1910). Punishment for a disgraced daughter (it usually had to be a daughter, never a son) was death. Or she was sent to a Buddhist temple to become a monk there, to repent for the rest of her life. (Sometimes illegitimate sons of high ranking officers were forced to become monks, too). Too bad similar inhumanities are still practiced in some parts of the world today. This book is not a story about a miserable post-war orphan. It is about the legacies of poverty stricken Asia's Confucian feudal institutions for the last 1,000 years, which produced millions of Elizabeths and poor Ommas. I value this book as it's about humanity and about the victory of a fragile yet powerful, beautiful Asian American soul. Time will heal and reward the many scars of Elizabeth and Leigh. As a man with a degree in literature, I place Elizabeth Kim among the same ranks of J D Salinger or William Saroyan. I like the following passage: "Another time I went out to cover a car wreck...She was a complete stranger, but in those seconds I felt like I knew her. 'You're so precious,' I told her." (p.190) I look forward to her second story, hopefully from her experience as crime reporter.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a book about learning to let go Von Ping Lim This book is named after a phrase that Elizabeth's mum taught her, that in life, there are 10000 sorrows 1000 joys. Here, we were given an overview of the living hell that the author had to put up with. She was disgusted with herself as she reckoned that her look of mixed blood was what caused her not been accepted by her peers. Neither her adopted parents nor her subsequent husband helped her case by mistreating her thus, further undermined her self belief confidence. Not having any soul mates, she had nobody to turn to. So, she physically inflicted harm upon herself hoping that all bad things would go away. I could feel for her about the Christian zealots that tried to convert all the people in the world or else they would go to hell yet, they contradicted the teaching of Christianity about humanity by doing harmful things to other people. How hypocritical can that be! I could also feel how heart broken she would be by having her favourite pet been taken away from her especially at her toddler age. It definitely brought back many memories. When the author got older, she trapped herself in the vicious cycle, trying to destroy herself along the way, hurted many guys that she had relationships / affairs with. At one stage, she's even suicidal as she reckoned that suicide was the certain only way that she could be closer to her mum who was long dead through the so called mercy killing. At one stage, I felt that the book was about bickering, much complain but no remedy. Alas, towards the end, the author finally realised that all her life, she had lost her plot altogether. Rather than focusing upon 10000 sorrows, she should focus upon 1000 joys. She finally learned that she shouldn't forsake the gift of life that her mum had given her she shouldn't be that foolish to take away her life or else, who's going to take care of her much beloved daughter, Leigh. She finally learned to let go of the past, made peace not only with her dead mum but herself finding peace tranquility in Buddhism. She admitted that she's coping with her problems now as she has had let go of her past. I believe this book is easy succinct to read. Poems written by the author came as a bonus as we managed to gauge the emotions of the author as she undertook the tasks of writing them. Still, I find this book less than satisfying, if compared with Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. The reason being this book is not as well balanced as the book talked a lot about her childhood but as she grew up towards adulthood, everything seemed to be fast track. It seemed like incidents in her adulthood weren't elaborate much at all compared with her childhood which she was able to describe to the smallest detail imaginable. Still, this is a book worth reading reminding to ourselves how lucky we all are. Irrespective what form we are, what colour of skin we have, we shall just

be thankful for the life we have for making a difference in this world. Commendable book.

Kurzbeschreibung I don't know how old I was when I watched my mother's murder, nor do I know how old I am today.' The illegitimate daughter of a peasant and an American GI, Elizabeth Kim spent her early years as a social outcast in her village in the Korean countryside. Ostracized by their family and neighbours, she and her mother were regularly pelted with stones on their way home from the rice fields. Yet there was a tranquil happiness in the intense bond between mother and daughter. Until the day that Elizabeth's grandfather and uncle came to punish her mother from the dishonour she had brought on the family, and executed her in front of her daughter. Elizabeth was dumped in an orphanage in Seoul. After some time, she was lucky enough to be adopted by an American couple. But when she arrived in America she found herself once again surrounded by fanaticism and prejudice. Elizabeth's mother had always told her that life was made up of ten thousand joys as well as ten thousand sorrows, and, supported by her loving daughter, and by a return to her Buddhist faith, she finally found a way to savour those joys, as well as the courage to exorcise the demons of her past..deTen Thousand Sorrows starts with its young narrator watching her mother's murder; improbably, things go downhill from there. "Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood," Frank McCourt famously wrote in *Angela's Ashes*. But McCourt's hardscrabble youth looks like a walk in the park compared to the experiences of Elizabeth Kim. The child of an illicit union between a Korean mother and an American father, Kim grows up the object of disgust and contempt in rural Korea. As a honhyol, or mixed-race child, she isn't considered a person at all. Yet her mother refuses to sell her into servitude, and for that show of compassion she pays with her life. In the harrowing scene that opens the book, Kim watches from a hiding place as her mother--the victim of a so-called honor killing--is hanged from a rafter: "All I could see through the bamboo slats were her bare feet, dangling in midair. I watched those milk-white feet twitch, almost with the rhythm of the Hwagwan-mu dance, and then grow still." Left alone in the world, without so much as a name or date of birth, Kim ends up in an orphanage where she spends hours on end locked in a crib that resembles a cage. Things ought to look up when an American couple adopts her. Instead, one form of abuse merely replaces another, as the pastor and his wife tell Kim that her mother "left her to die in a rice paddy" and immediately take away any toy or pet to which she develops an attachment. Later, Kim escapes into a young marriage (arranged, naturally, by her fundamentalist parents), only to find no refuge there either. Surely there is a special place in hell reserved for her husband, the kind of pathological sadist who becomes aroused only by inflicting pain. By this point, the reader begins to feel like something of a sadist herself. It's a tribute to Kim's skill as a writer that we can't look away from her pain, even when it might feel more comfortable to do so. True, she does leave her husband, make herself a new life with her daughter, begin a journalism career without benefit of training or degree--all of which demonstrates an amazing tenacity and inner strength. Yet the latter half of the book employs the familiar vocabulary of healing without doing much to convince. Reconciled with her experiences, Kim doesn't necessarily seem to have finished processing them. Her book has all the raw urgency of a call to 911: it feels written for the author's very survival. --Chloe Byrne

Pressestimmen Advance praise for Elizabeth Kim's *Ten Thousand Sorrows*: "Each of the strands braided together to make up Elizabeth Kim's remarkable life is tragic, and in this frank and simple chronicle, she makes of them a thing of beauty more harrowing than any novel."--Arthur Golden, author of *Memoirs of a Geisha* "In pristine and exquisite prose, *Ten Thousand Sorrows* tells one of the most harrowing stories I have ever encountered in print; it is a book that must be read by anyone serious about memoirs, the Asian-American experience, or what it means to be a woman in the twenty-first century. Kim has written a poignant and masterful memoir destined to find a permanent place in American literature."--Sapphire, author of *Push* "Ten Thousand Sorrows is a magnificent tribute to the power of forgiveness. Elizabeth Kim writes with clarity, honesty, and power about the enduring longing for a mother's love."--Dave Pelzer, author of *A Man Named Dave*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Child Called "It"* From the Hardcover edition.