

Stealing Buddhas Dinner A Memoir

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winner of the pen jerard award chicago tribune best book of the year kiriyama notable book a perfectly pitched and prodigiously detailed memoir boston globe as a vietnamese girl coming of age in grand rapids michigan nguyen is filled with a rapacious hunger for american identity and in the pre pc era midwest where the jennifers and tiffanys reign supreme the desire to belong transmutes into a passion for american food more exotic seeming than her buddhist grandmother s traditional specialties the campy preservative filled delicacies of mainstream america capture her imagination in stealing buddha s dinner the glossy branded allure of pringles kit kats and toll house cookies becomes an ingenious metaphor for nguyen s struggle to become a real american a distinction that brings with it the dream of the perfect school lunch burgers and jell o for dinner and a visit from the kool aid man vivid and viscerally powerful this remarkable memoir about growing up in the 1980s introduces an original new literary voice and an entirely new spin on the classic assimilation story

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stealing buddha s dinner a memoir 2008 written by bich minh nguyen 1974 a vietnamese american writer is devoted to the author s family it is based on nguyen s own life story which depicts her family s life in grand rapids michigan after fleeing from vietnam in 1975 focusing on her fascination with american foods and her growing interest toward vietnamese foods nguyen inspired by the fact of the memoir boom in recent decades records her childhood experience with different kinds of food as a commemoration of her past this thesis discusses nguyen s growing up journey through her consumption of vietnamese foods and american foods it begins with nguyen s vietnamese gustatory journey through her grandmother noi s cooking thereafter her multiple cultural experiences through having american and other western foods are prepared by rosa her stepmother undergoing the event of stealing budhha s dinner nguyen realizes that she is who she is and her attitude toward different cultures may be changeable while her vietnamese root will never change this thesis analyzes author s growing up experiences and the construction of her multicultural identity through foods by applying homi bhabha s notion of hybridity and du bois s concept of double consciousness

in this book we have hand picked the most sophisticated unanticipated absorbing if not at times crackpot original and musing book reviews of *stealing buddha s dinner a memoir* don t say we didn t warn you these reviews are known to shock with their unconventionality or intimacy some may be startled by their biting sincerity others may be spellbound

by their unbridled flights of fantasy don't buy this book if 1 you don't have nerves of steel 2 you expect to get pregnant in the next five minutes 3 you've heard it all

if life is a journey with detours paths from which to choose and myriad roadblocks to overcome then Otto Ringling is most certainly on the journey of a lifetime his first fifty or so years were pretty good he felt he had it all until one day he didn't seeking understanding he calls on Volya Rinpoche a wise man and spiritual leader a man who accepts the world as it comes to him a man without pride or vanity but Rinpoche as it turns out is experiencing his own time of doubt in hopes of finding answers to life's mysteries the two embark on a journey through America an amusing and enlightening road trip that becomes a lesson in love and gratitude

an excerpt from a coming of age memoir by a Vietnamese American recounts her struggles for an American identity in the pre-politically correct climate of the Midwest and her passion for American food in the face of her family's Buddhist lifestyle

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