

Weeping Under This Same Moon

Jana Laiz

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After the fall of Saigon, nineteen-year-old Mei Phuong escapes Vietnam on an overloaded boat with her younger brother and sister in tow, destination unknown. Conditions onboard deteriorate until Mei sees a woman prepare to leap to her death: "We watch her as if we are watching a play, no one moves to stop her, no one really believing she will do what she obviously is about to do." *Weeping Under This Same Moon* by Jana Laiz (Crow Flies Press, 978-0-9814910-0-4) contrasts Mei's uncertain life with that of Hannah, a privileged but unhappy teen from Westchester, New York, who blossoms as a volunteer helping Vietnamese newcomers in the Bronx. Hannah's affection for photography parallels Mei's passion for painting, but art is a luxury and refugees deny themselves nonessentials.

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