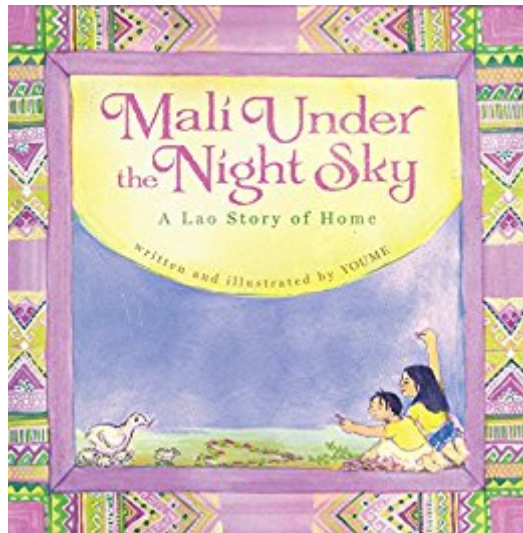


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# Mali Under The Night Sky: A Lao Story Of Home



## Synopsis

Mali Under the Night Sky, a 2011 Skipping Stones honor book, is the true story of Laotian American artist Malichansouk Kouanchao, whose family was forced by civil war to flee Laos when she was five. Before the war began, Mali lived an idyllic life in a community where she felt safe and was much loved. But the coming war caused her family to flee to another country and a life that was less than ideal. What did she carry with her? She carried her memories. And they in turn carried her across the world, sharing where she is from and all that she loves with the people she meets. Terry Hong of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program's BOOK DRAGON, giving context to Youme's remarkable book, said, "Today, December 7, marks the 69th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a date which will live in infamy"; Seven decades later, infamy lives on, stealing childhoods, families, homes, lives. Now as another year comes to a close, we pray for peace; again and again; again and again; [Mali Under the Night Sky] is another hopeful, urgent prayer. • And the Midwest Book Review calls it "a soul-stirring picturebook about the difficulties faced by wartime refugees, and deserves the highest recommendation." • Youme Landowne is an energetic and joyful painter, book artist, and activist who thrives in the context of public art. Youme has lived in and learned from the United States, Kenya, Japan, Laos, Haiti, and Cuba. In all of these places, she has worked with communities and individuals to make art that honors personal and cultural wisdom, creating community murals, illustrating tiny books, and teaching poetry in schools.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mali Under the Night Sky: A Lao Story of Home is not an ordinary picturebook - it tells the true story of a little girl named Mali, who had to journey with her family from Laos to Thailand when she was five to escape the deadly toll of a war without borders. When they finally come to a different country, they are imprisoned. As heartrending as the story is, it also offers a glimmer of hope in the love people have for their homeland and each other. Mali Under the Night Sky is a soul-stirring picturebook about the difficulties faced by wartime refugees, and deserves the highest recommendation.

I choose to take this book out of the library for my 7 year old daughter on the basis of the reviews from School Library Journal, Booklist, and Midwest Book Review. The images are evocative and the language is simple and direct. It handles a troubling topic well, raising questions without being too disturbing or frightening for young ones. However, as my daughter noted, "it doesn't end." The book just comes to an abrupt stop when Mali tells stories of home to her fellow refugees. I had hoped that the two endnotes would provide more context and closure. Instead they are interesting tidbits of autobiography from the point of view character, Malichansouk Kouanchao, and a friend of hers, Thavisouk Phrasavath. This good book would have been excellent if the story arc had been completed.

Always a pleasure to find books that are suitable for a church library and that are geared toward children and/or youth.

Super cute book. My daughter loves it.

Great book!

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