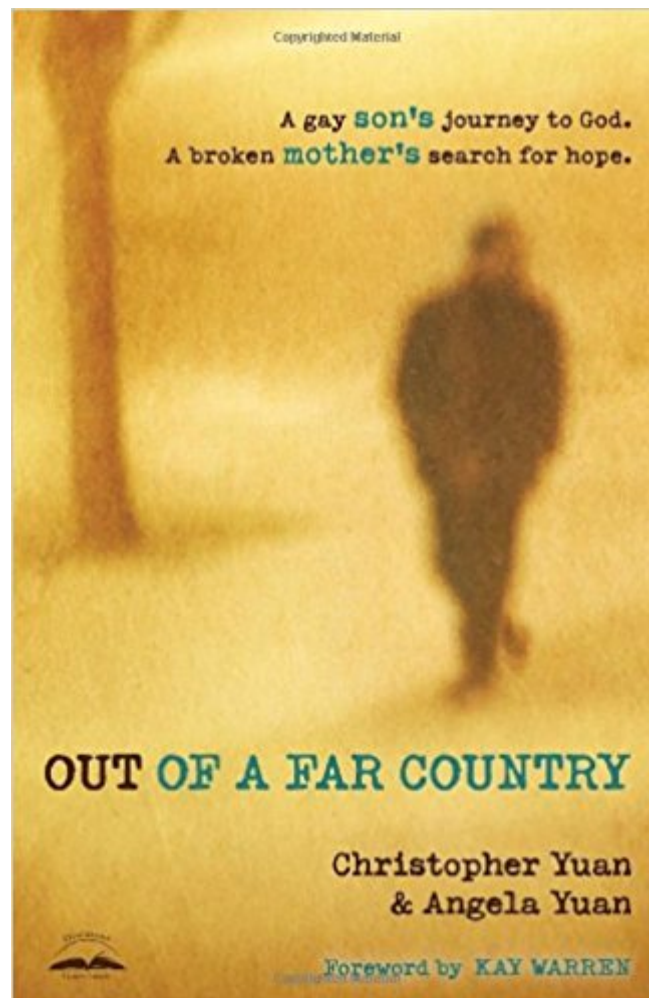




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Out Of A Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey To God. A Broken Mother's Search For Hope.



Synopsis

Coming Out, Then Coming Home— Christopher Yuan, the son of Chinese immigrants, discovered at an early age that he was different. He was attracted to other boys. As he grew into adulthood, his mother, Angela, hoped to control the situation. Instead, she found that her son and her life were spiraling out of control—and her own personal demons were determined to defeat her. Years of heartbreak, confusion, and prayer followed before the Yuans found a place of complete surrender, which is God's desire for all families. Their amazing story, told from the perspectives of both mother and son, offers hope for anyone affected by homosexuality. God calls all who are lost to come home to him. Casting a compelling vision for holy sexuality, *Out of a Far Country* speaks to prodigals, parents of prodigals, and those wanting to minister to the gay community. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. • Includes a discussion guide for personal reflection and group use.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *Out of a Far Country* — Christopher Yuan and Angela Yuan have told the story of their miraculous journey from broken lives, relationships, and dreams to a place of hope and healing. *Out of a Far Country* brings home the living truth that in the midst of a broken and hurting world, God is at work to redeem, renew, and reconcile his beloved. I'm particularly happy to endorse this book because Christopher, like myself, was broken in prison and redeemed by Christ. — Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship and the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview — *Out of a Far Country* reads like a modern rendition of the prodigal son parable, only it is more gripping. The

journey taken by Christopher Yuan is rarely documented. Be prepared, for the raw emotions of both mother and son authentically mark every page. The spiritual lessons to be gained from this book are many. May it gain a vast audience!

• "J. Paul Nyquist, PhD, president of Moody Bible Institute "This is a moving account of how an Asian mother's fragile love turns into a prayerful, patient, and tenacious force of forgiveness. It is also a gripping narrative of a son's search for belonging and meaning. Out of a Far Country breeds hope in every despairing heart."

• "Lisa Espineli Chinn, director of International Student Ministries for InterVarsity/USA "The Good Shepherd knows his sheep and calls them by name. Christopher Yuan, trapped in a life of drugs and sexual addiction, heard that call and rose to follow Jesus. His and his mother's account of that rising is a profound story of redemption that all of us in this broken generation need to hear."

• "Duane Litfin, president emeritus of Wheaton College in Illinois "Relevant, courageous, fascinating, and much more. I have known the Yuans for many years, and their walk is in line with their talk. This important and needed story goes against the wind, but it is one hundred percent in the right direction."

• "Dr. George Verwer, founder and former international director of Operation Mobilisation "Out of a Far Country is a true-life parable of saving grace for a prodigal mother and a wayward son who needed God's forgiveness. Their story will warm the heart and lift the spirit of every parent who prays for a wandering child and every believer who needs to be reminded why the gospel is good news."

• "Dr. Philip G. Ryken, president of Wheaton College in Illinois "At one point, Angela and Christopher were living worlds apart. I have heard their story countless times, and it never grows old. I know you will be amazed by the God who did the impossible to bring this mother and son back together."

• "Alan Chambers, president of Exodus International "This is the story of God's persistent chase of a wayward son through the prayers and love of a determined mother. But even more, it is a testimony to the fact that loving God is a far more satisfying pursuit than following our own desires. I am thankful that Christopher and Angela are willing to be so transparent about their journey. Christopher's desire to follow Christ regardless of the struggle stands as a model for all who desire to love God with all their heart."

• "Dr. Joseph M. Stowell, president of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan "God snatched Christopher Yuan from a desperately empty life and offered him the hope of Jesus Christ. This is a story of God's redemption, love, and mercy in the midst of overwhelming sin and a heart that was far from God. Get two copies of this book "you will want to give one to a friend who needs Jesus."

• "Dr. James MacDonald, senior pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, Illinois "The story of Angela Yuan and Christopher Yuan, Out of a Far Country, will minister rich grace and hope to mothers who are praying for the return of a prodigal, to the prodigals they love, and to anyone

battling a sinful addiction that seems impossible to overcome. This is a deeply moving account of God's amazing power and love. • Nancy Leigh DeMoss, best-selling author, host of the Revive Our Hearts radio program

Christopher Yuan and Angela Yuan travel nationally and internationally to speak at churches, conferences, youth conventions, and colleges about God's desire for prodigals of all types to return to him. Angela is a businesswoman and advocate for Chinese-American cultural causes. Christopher teaches at Moody Bible Institute (MBI). He holds a bachelor's degree from MBI, a master's degree in biblical exegesis from Wheaton College Graduate School and a doctorate of ministry from Bethel Seminary.

Two writers alternate telling their vastly different perspectives about the same events, making the story quite thought provoking and multi-dimensional. This book is not the work of skilled writers, but their stories, simply told, are heartfelt and moving.

I loved the candid reflections of the Yuans' personal struggles. I would recommend this book to anyone and everyone. The Yuans' family testimonies touch so many important issues and topics of today beyond homosexuality, prisons, and individual bias. I believe their fundamental point is knowing your God by having an intimate relationship with Him. Just a note, I would suggest looking at the study questions first before you read each chapter, it keeps it at the forefront of your mind.

As the mom of a gay son, the sister of a gay brother, and the friend of many wonderful gay and lesbian people, I read this book with a bit of reluctance, wondering if the conclusion of the story would be to condemn those in the LGBT community, or to conclude that Christians are somehow superior, and more loved by God, than those in the LGBT community. But gladly, Christopher and Angela's story is just that: their own story, of their personal journey and experience with a faithful, loving God. It didn't feel preachy or self-righteous, nor did it condemn others who have walked a different path. What the book did do was to give testimony to the way in which God is actively involved in our world, answering prayers and pursuing relationship with His children. I would recommend it for anyone who would like to better understand the experience of addiction and/or the isolation that is often experienced by those who are gay or lesbian, and those who want to be reminded of how loving our God truly is.

An enlightening book sharing the struggles of the devastating sin of homosexuality and the transformation in the mother's heart, leading her to loving her son and commitment to prayer and trusting the Lord to work in her son's life. A good book of hope and seeing God's power to reconcile to Himself.

I came across OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY by CHRISTOPHER YUAN AND ANGELA YUAN on . I was intrigued, and wanted to get a better understanding of what a gay man goes through, as well as his parents. Discovering Christianity was involved, sealed the deal. OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY sat on my bookshelf for months. While at a meeting at church, a man that joined our group mentioned a book a friend of his wrote that may be of interest, seeing we were involved in the prison and jail ministry. The title he mentioned sounded familiar, along with the author. When I returned home I rushed to my bookshelf to see if it were indeed the same book, and to my delight it was. The very next day I began to read OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY. Each morning I read a chapter out of my Bible, a chapter of non-fiction, and fiction throughout the day. OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY is like no other non-fiction I can recall reading. I couldn't put it down. It's probably the fastest I've read a non-fiction book. Christopher Yuan had a secret, one he'd been carrying around for some time. When he decided to reveal that secret, that he's gay, his mother shows him the door. Angela Yuan loves her son, but being gay... Her first instinct is to give him an ultimatum. Be straight or get out. Angela was consumed with depression, disappointment, and sense of hopelessness. With every intention of ending her life, she sets out to say her good-byes to her son. OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY is a quick, easy read that is well written. One you will have a hard time putting down. I loved going from Christopher's point-of-view to Angela's. I even learned something new about an old song. This book is several stories in one: A gay man's journey in life. A mother's journey with a gay son. A journey through addictions. A journey through imprisonment. A redemption of a marriage. The journey of faithless to faithfulness. I highly recommend OUT OF A FAR COUNTRY to everyone, whether you know someone who is gay, you are, or aren't a Christian, you know someone that's incarcerated, you know someone that has little hope in their marriage, or someone with an addiction. This is a true story of hope and redemption. My hope is that people will pick up and read this book despite...or maybe because of, the gay aspect.

Very few people are able or willing to honestly peer through the window and into the world Christopher and Angela Yuan open for us. This is more than an interesting recounting of two perspectives on a journey of life through faith and homosexuality. It is not a comforting book. Many,

if not most, will have a difficult time embracing the testimony of the Yuans. Some Christians who have been reared in conservative environments will bristle at Christopher's refusal to deny that he was born with same-sex attraction. Proponents of the gay lifestyle will bristle with Christopher's ultimate decision on how to live with his homosexuality. Angela's prayers and deep expression of love for her son run counter-culture to modern day political and social correctness in how to embrace a gay child. The lessons of the book are plentiful. It's a primer for a greater understanding of those who wrestle with homosexuality. It's also a modern day story of the prodigal son. Angela is an example, regardless of the trouble in the lives of our children, of how to be a loving, patient and supportive parent. Christopher's conversion is a shining example of God's grace while the effects of HIV are a reminder the consequences of our actions follow us throughout our lives. Very few will be able to read this book without some change of perspective. I highly recommend it.

Good service; excellent book

I don't know if I should rate it this high but it gave me hope as to the power of prayer and no matter how long we have to wait on the Lord's timing to never stop praying. It also showed that God does not show favoritism but loves all His children the same and gives us all second chances. The only thing I would have like to have read was exactly when and how Christopher realized he needed Christ and his moment of salvation. I definitely related with his mother and that helped to show that we're not alone in this struggle. Thank you Christopher with being so open with your journey. God bless you always.

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