

# An International Adoption in the Shadow of the Salvadoran Civil War: Louann



## Missing Mila, Finding Family: An International Adoption in the Shadow of the Salvadoran Civil War (Louann Atkins Temple Women & Culture Series Book 27)

by Margaret E. Ward

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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In the midst of the Salvadoran Civil War, an American woman named Louann embarked on a life-changing journey to adopt a Salvadoran child. The war, which lasted from 1979 to 1992, was a brutal conflict that left an estimated 75,000 people dead and thousands more displaced.

Louann was motivated to adopt a child from El Salvador after hearing about the plight of children who had been orphaned or abandoned as a result of the war. She traveled to El Salvador in 1989 and met with a social worker who introduced her to a young boy named Carlos.

Carlos was 5 years old and had been living in an orphanage since he was 2. His parents had been killed in the war, and he had no other family.

Louann was immediately drawn to Carlos and knew that she wanted to adopt him.

The adoption process was complex and challenging, but Louann was determined to give Carlos a better life. She worked with a lawyer to navigate the legal process and eventually obtained custody of Carlos in 1990.

Louann and Carlos returned to the United States and began their new life together. Louann enrolled Carlos in school and provided him with all the love and support he needed to thrive.

Carlos is now a happy and healthy adult. He is grateful to Louann for giving him a chance at a better life. He says that he would not be where he is today without her love and support.

Louann's story is a testament to the power of love and the importance of family. She is a role model for all who are considering adopting a child from another country.

## **The Challenges of International Adoption**

International adoption is a complex and challenging process. There are many factors to consider, including the legal process, the cultural differences, and the emotional toll on the adopted child and the adoptive family.

The legal process of international adoption can be lengthy and expensive. It is important to work with a qualified lawyer who can guide you through the process and ensure that your adoption is legal and ethical.

Cultural differences can also be a challenge for adoptive families. It is important to be aware of the cultural background of your child and to be prepared to adjust your own expectations and lifestyle accordingly.

The emotional toll on the adopted child and the adoptive family can also be significant. Adopted children may experience feelings of loss and grief, and they may need extra support to adjust to their new life. Adoptive families may also experience feelings of stress and anxiety, and they may need to seek support from other adoptive families or professionals.

### **The Rewards of International Adoption**

Despite the challenges, international adoption can also be a rewarding experience. Adoptive families can provide a loving and supportive home for children who would otherwise not have one. Adopted children can bring joy and happiness to their adoptive families, and they can make a positive contribution to their communities.

If you are considering international adoption, it is important to do your research and to be prepared for the challenges and rewards involved. With careful planning and preparation, you can give a child a chance at a better life and create a loving and supportive family.

### **The Impact of War on Families**

War has a devastating impact on families. It can lead to the death or displacement of family members, and it can also cause long-term psychological and emotional damage.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of war. They may witness violence and trauma, and they may be separated from their families.

International adoption can provide a lifeline for children who have been affected by war. It can give them a chance to heal and to grow up in a safe and loving environment.

Louann's story is a powerful reminder of the power of love and the importance of family. Her story is also a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Despite the challenges she faced, she never gave up on her dream of adopting a child from El Salvador.

Louann's story is an inspiration to all who are considering international adoption. It is a reminder that love knows no borders, and that every child deserves a chance to grow up in a loving and supportive home.



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