



Mother's Beloved: Stories from Laos

Outhine Bounyavong

Edited by Bounheng Inversin and Daniel Duffy

Introduction by Peter Koret

Outhine Bounyavong is one of the most prominent contemporary writers in Laos. His stories are animated with Laotian virtues of simplicity, compassion, respect for age, and other village mores; they breathe with a gentleness that is fresh and distinctive. Outhine focuses on the passions and foibles of ordinary people. Their good luck, disappointments, and plain but poignant conversations reveal the subtle textures of Lao culture.

This book, published by the University of Washington Press, presents 14 of Outhine

Bounyavong's short stories in English translation alongside the Lao originals, marking his formal debut for an American audience. It is also the first collection of Lao short stories to be published in the English language. Peter Koret's Introduction explores the history of modern Lao literature and considers Outhine's writing within this broader context.

Outhine Bounyavong was born in Laos in 1942. The author of four collections of short stories, he has had a long career as a journalist, editor, translator, and professor of Lao literature.

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