

Book Description

This is the story of how a biracial child, penniless, with little formal education, hardly speaking English, and without a clue of how to go about it, got to America and pursued the American dream.

His Cantonese mother occasionally called him *larn doe yee*, which means “rotten gambler two.” The number two son—the second male in birth order—is sometimes seen in China as the family’s gambler. His American father (of Scottish ancestry) was interned by the Japanese during their occupation of Shanghai until the end of WW II. After the Communists took over, his father reluctantly left for America. It would be ten years before the family was reunited, and Edward was the only one who found his own way there.

Edward vividly describes his experiences and dangers of what it was like for a biracial child to grow up in a city during periods of war and turmoil (under Japanese, Nationalist, and Communist rule), being hungry, seen as unmanageable, and trying various schemes to earn money, one of which resulted in his being threatened with beheading.

Through the providential help of a Catholic priest, he was able to leave Shanghai at age 14. In Hong Kong he was hired on as a cabin boy of a “slow boat” to America. He eventually found a home with a “friend” in San Francisco. But he did not yet “fit in” during a few months of high school. On an impulse he joined the US Air Force and had more adventures and unexpected turns in his life on his way to becoming a true American. Although the story is mainly a memoir, the context gives glimpses of history, and it contrasts the cultures of China and the US from 1937 to 1958.

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This book (starting 20 January 2016) is presently only available as an e-book in the Kindle format. If you do not have a Kindle, a free Kindle reading app is available from Amazon for most tablets, smart phones or computers. We hope to have a paperback edition published within a few months through CreativeSpace (and it will be available from Amazon.com). We are also working on a sequel. For periodic updates, see amazon.com/author/lumsdaine.