



# Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora

*Andrew Lam*

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**Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora** Andrew Lam

"When Americans say Vietnam, they don't mean Vietnam."

In his long-overdue first collection of essays, noted journalist and NPR commentator Andrew Lam explores his lifelong struggle for identity as a Viet Kieu, or a Vietnamese national living abroad. At age eleven, Lam, the son of a South Vietnamese general, came to California on the eve of the fall of Saigon to communist forces. He traded his Vietnamese name for a more American one and immersed himself in the allure of the American dream: something not clearly defined for him or his family.

Reflecting on the meanings of the Vietnam War to the Vietnamese people themselves--particularly to those in exile--Lam picks with searing honesty at the roots of his doubleness and his parents' longing for a homeland that no longer exists.

Winner of the 2006 PEN/Beyond Margins Award

*A Book Sense* Notable Book December 2005

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