

Dear Reader,

Arriving a mere month before the 40th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, ***Out of the Dragon's Mouth*** by Joyce Burns Zeiss is a fictional refugee story inspired by true-life experiences of a colleague of Zeiss who fled Vietnam. Zeiss was also inspired to put pen to paper by her work resettling a refugee family and her work in refugee camps.

After the fall of South Vietnam, fourteen-year-old Mai, a young Vietnamese girl of Chinese descent, is torn from a life of privilege and protection and forced to flee with her uncle in the hold of a fishing trawler. Mai finds tenuous safety at a refugee camp on an island off the coast of Malaysia, where she is taken in by Small Auntie, a greedy relative who demands payment for her hospitality. With her father's words, "You must survive," echoing in her ears, Mai endures the hardships of the camp, tempered only by dreams of being sponsored by her uncle in Chicago for entry into America.

When an accident forces Mai to flee from the safety of her relatives to another part of the island, she meets a half-American boy named Kien who might be the only person who can keep her alive until she's sent to the United States.

Joyce Burns Zeiss was inspired to write *Out of the Dragon's Mouth*, her first novel, by her experiences resettling a Chinese Cambodian refugee family and her subsequent trips to work in refugee camps. The story is based on the true-life experiences of a fellow teacher who fled Vietnam as an adolescent to cross the South China Sea in the hold of a fishing boat. Visit her online at joycezeiss1.blogspot.com.

I hope you will consider *Out of the Dragon's Mouth* for review. For more information or to reach the author for an interview, please contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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About FLUX, where young adult is a point of view, not a reading level
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