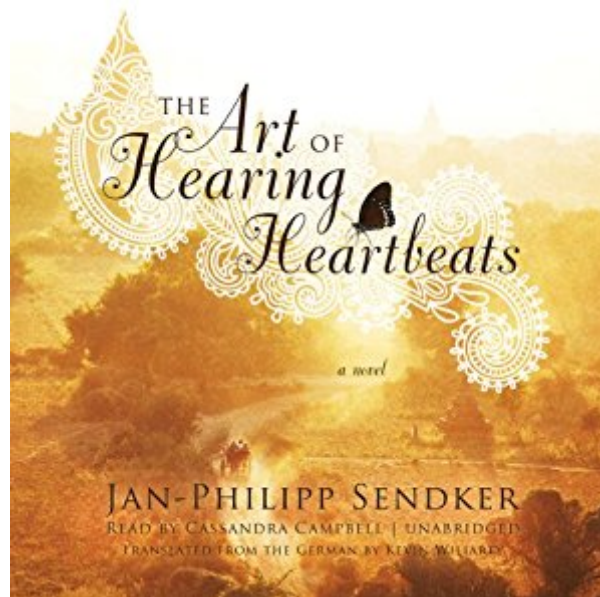




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The Art Of Hearing Heartbeats: A Novel



Synopsis

A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* spans the decades between the 1950s and the present. When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be - until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father's past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the listener's belief in the power of love to move mountains.

Jan-Philipp Sendker, born in Hamburg in 1960, was the American correspondent for *Stern* from 1990 to 1995 and its Asian correspondent from 1995 to 1999. In 2000 he published *Cracks in the Great Wall*, a nonfiction book about China. *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* is his first novel. He lives in Berlin with his family.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although I guessed the book's "secret" early on, the tale of Tin Win and Mi Mi - who lacked sight and the ability to walk, respectively, is a remarkable one. It is as much a tale of parental fear and abandonment by Tin Win's mother and the unconditional love of Mi Mi's mother, as it is Tin Win and Mi Mi's overcoming their limitations - not that they would describe their deficits in that way. After his mother's abandonment, Tin Win receives unconditional love from an unmarried neighbor who steps in to raise him after his father dies. And the love between Mi Mi and Tin Win over 50 years of forced

separation is an incredible symbiosis. Julia's search for her father, Tin Win, who disappears after her law school graduation brings her to Rangoon and U Ba, who seemed to be waiting for her. His story of Tin Win and Mi Mi is told simply, sympathetically, and openly. Although the ending was a tiny bit contrived and sappy, it didn't ruin the story. It is there that we meet some remarkable characters who shape Tin Win's life and change it forever: the monk/ mentor and the neighbor woman who accepts him just as he is and nurtures him. We endure his rich uncle's manipulations, which cruelly separate Tin Win and his childhood love. And we marvel, as the uncle eventually did, at their acceptance of fate. Some may perceive this as a fatalistic approach to life, but it is the joy with which Tin Win accept their fate without succumbing to it that makes their story special.

I thought this was one of the most beautiful stories I ever read. I normally don't read books by authors I don't know, but my sister read the book and loved it, so I bought it. My sister had some questions about the ending, but I thought it ended appropriately. I thought the characters were incredibly well developed; they had real depth and great understanding, even at a young age. This book should be made into a movie. I am looking forward to reading Book 2.

Though I anticipated the ending to some degree, the book had some interesting twists and turns. The characters were well-developed with the exception of the protagonist's mother, and it was a good read.

A very well written and cross cultural romance. The early relationship is truly remarkable and all engrossing. The ending includes too many hard to believe coincidences for me but all in all worth reading

Loved it, loved it, loved it!! I resent when reviewers tell you the story. I will not. To reveal it would spoil the joy of embarking on a journey of discovery with a young woman in search of a father who, one day, inexplicably just disappeared, from his family, his very comfortable life and highly successful law career, and leaving no clue as to why. He just walked away leaving everyone and everything behind. All is a total unknown until his daughter, Julia, finds a couple of old letters written by her father that reveals a deep love and longing for the intended recipient at an address in Burma, to whom they were never sent. Julia, puts her own successful law career on hold and sets off for Burma to learn who the mysterious "Mi Mi" is, and whether it is she that her father has gone to find or return to, so many years later. Julia finds herself in the tiny rural village of Kalaw, where over a

period of time she hopes to find some answers as told to her by a native Burmese man, U Ba. For the rest, I will leave it to you dear would-be reader. I hope you will enjoy reading, and unfolding this well written and well told story as I did.

I was presently surprised with this book . Very nice ending . Totally didn't expect the outcome .
Peaceful ending

I felt like I had visited Burma when I finished reading this book. The love story is timeless. The author transports us to another time and another culture. I want to savor 'this book.

This was one of the most exquisite books I have ever read... simple in it's language, yet deep in the meanings. The story transcends time, continent, culture, ability and disability... I just don't have enough words to express how much richer my life is now that I have read this. I highly recommend it. Regarding "sexual content"... there is limited places, but the contact is expressed so delicately and with amazing intimacy. I am going to also write a post on my Facebook page for all my friends to read this.

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