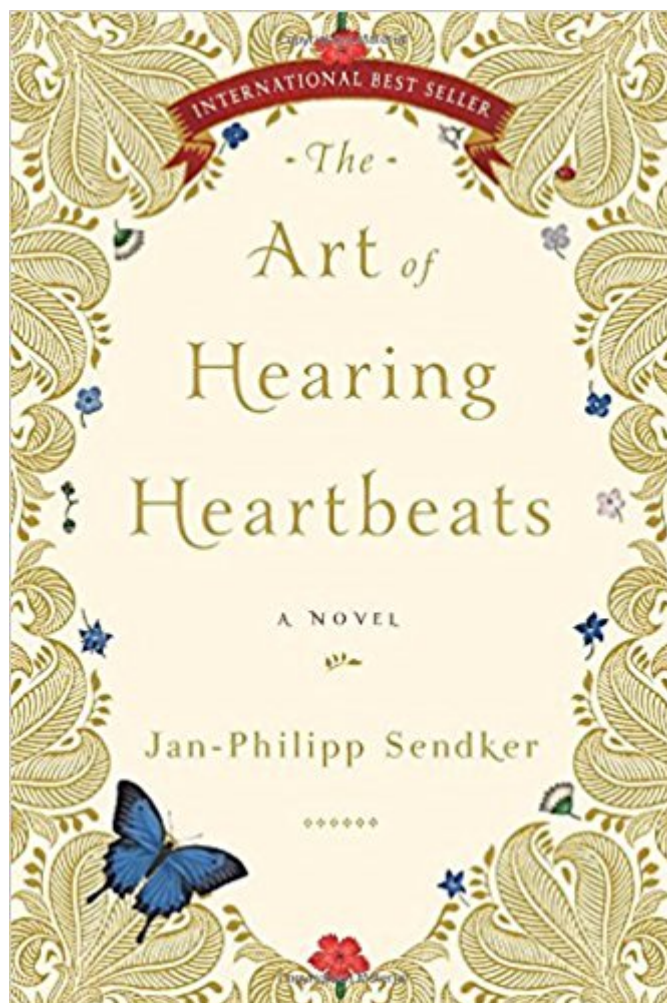


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# The Art Of Hearing Heartbeats



## 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 reader's belief in the power of love to move mountains.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, February 2012: I'll admit that when I first read the title of Jan-Philipp Sendker's novel, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*, I winced (just a little). Something about it gave off a whiff of well-aged Stilton, but this love story is no stinky cheese. In it, a respected New York City attorney vanishes, supposedly en route to a business trip, leaving an embittered wife and dumbfounded daughter behind. No, I'm not getting my genres mixed-up. While there's a mystery--one the daughter, Julia, travels to Burma to unravel--what she uncovers there is anything but sinister. Julia is a cynical sleuth, and your suspension of disbelief will be tested, too, but as this sweeping romance unfolds, you'll gladly fall for it. --Erin Kodicek

Already a huge hit in Europe, Sendker's debut is a lush tale of romance and family set in mid-twentieth-century Burma. Four years after her father mysteriously disappeared, Julia Win traces him to the small town of Kalaw after finding a love letter among his possessions addressed to a woman named Mi Mi. In Kalaw, an old man named U Ba approaches her, promising to tell her the story of her father's life before he came to New York and met her mother. As a child, Tin Win was abandoned by his mother, who was told by an astrologer the boy was cursed. At 10, Tin Win gradually goes blind. He is taken in by a kindly neighbor, who finds him a home at a local monastery. It is there that he meets Mi Mi, whose crippled legs make her as much of an outsider as Tin Win. Their natural camaraderie quickly turns into love, but their happiness is brief. A beautiful tale bound to enchant readers on this side of the Atlantic. --Kristine Huntley

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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