



# Unpolished Gem: My Mother, My Grandmother, and Me

*Alice Pung*

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## **Unpolished Gem: My Mother, My Grandmother, and Me** Alice Pung

After Alice Pung's family fled to Australia from the killing fields of Cambodia, her father chose Alice as her name because he thought their new country was a Wonderland. In this lyrical, bittersweet debut memoir—already an award-winning bestseller when it was published in Australia—Alice grows up straddling two worlds, East and West, her insular family and the Australia outside. With wisdom beyond her years and a keen eye for comedy in everyday life, she writes of the trials of assimilation and cultural misunderstanding, and of the tender but fraught relationships between three generations of women trying to live the Australian dream without losing themselves. *Unpolished Gem* is a moving, vivid journey about identity and the ultimate search for acceptance and healing, delivered by a writer possessed of rare empathy, penetrating insight, and undeniable narrative gifts.

**Download** a revised version of the Pung and Chia family trees that appear in *Unpolished Gem*.

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