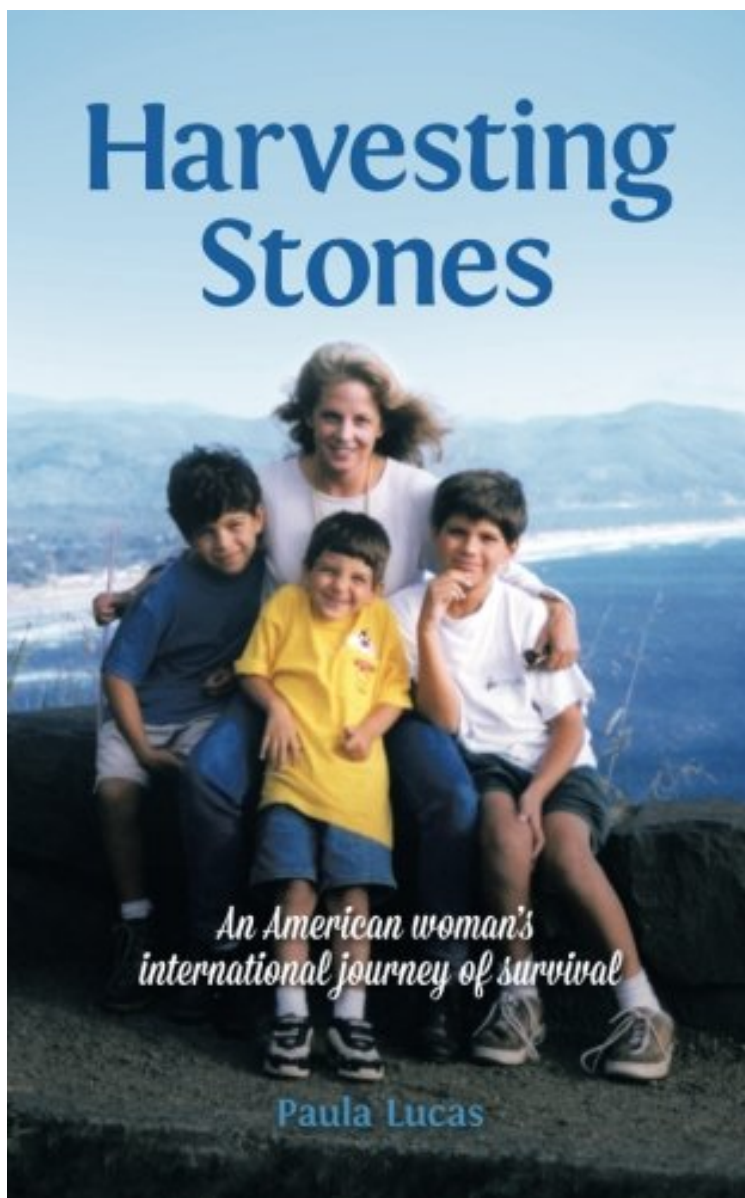


[Library ebook] Harvesting Stones: An American woman's international journey of survival

Harvesting Stones: An American woman's international journey of survival

Paula Lucas

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Paula Lucas : Harvesting Stones: An American woman's international journey of survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harvesting Stones: An American woman's international journey of survival:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Terrifying and True Tale By JanetDWI knew much of the story because Paula was a speaker at my Association's conference last year. It didn't matter. The content was gripping and the book a page turner. Even knowing the outcome did not detract from the suspense as I felt her growing desperation to get her children away from a terribly abusive situation. Harvesting Stones is a well-written memoir of Paula Lucas's 14-year relationship with a sadistic and manipulative man. The clues are there from the beginning, but who would have known that a sophisticated and generous older man with a glamorous career and a need to control would become the Monster who terrorized his wife and children for so many years. I also lived abroad, in Vienna for 11 years and Dubai for 2 years and I am grateful that my experiences were so different from Paula's. It's a book that makes you examine your own choices. I think that I danced around a fellow with such tendencies long ago. He would break my acrylic fingernails because he didn't like them and he would hold me down and tickle me long past the point of being amusing. My red flag came up and I quickly ended that relationship. I wish Paula's antennae had worked better in the early days of her relationship and that she hadn't had to endure what she did. However, her three beautiful boys, her crisis center and her loving new relationship would not have been possible without the life's journey that she has taken. Beyond Paula's story, Harvesting Stones takes hard look at domestic abuse and offers some real life advice of how to combat it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. WOW! By KJI read this book in one day. It was like reading my own story, except mine happened on U.S. soil. Paula is a terrific writer and I was gripped by this story from the first few words. It brought back a lot of memories I'd rather not have, but like Paula says, our experiences have made us who we are today and we are much stronger because of it. It's so amazing that Paula has done something wonderful for other woman trapped in this situation. She is a true hero. People that have never been in an abusive situation often wonder why we don't just leave. After reading Paula's book, I think they might actually be able to fathom the terror threats these kinds of people are capable of. It's not that easy just to leave. These "men" will stalk you and do everything in their power to keep you. They are manipulative and make you believe every apology and because we think we love them, we give them the benefit of the doubt. So many women do not make it out of abusive relationships, but those that do will never forget the hell they went through and will always be thankful they made it out alive. Thank you Paula for writing such an honest account of your situation. I hope this will open people's eyes to the fact that being in an abusive relationship isn't an easy thing to just walk away from and carry on. Kudos to Paula for getting her boys back on U.S. soil and doing everything in her power to keep them here. You are an amazing woman and mother. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read for All Women-those in safe healthy marriage, those who are not, and the friends of both. By BBarber Oh my, I don't know where to start. I am an Expat Wife. I meet dozens of women, and I know that statistically some of them are in a dangerous unsafe marriage. I was hesitant to read this book, not knowing if I could deal with details of abuse, and violence. I found the book to have just enough details to draw you in. and help you understand the true impact of the danger and threat, but also enough pro-active initiative and strength from the author, to help you realize there are resources and help available to get to safety. I will use the narrative and the resources to help the next woman I meet who needs an escape to safety.

When Paula Lucas, a Catholic farm girl raised in the agricultural heartland of California met an internationally known foreign photographer in San Francisco shortly after college, her life transformed. She spent fourteen years living and traveling overseas in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. A dream comes true as an American expat, except she hid terrible secrets that almost cost the lives of her children and herself. The night before she fled Dubai in April 1999, she made a covenant with God that she would help other American women and children being terrorized in foreign countries if she successfully escaped the next day. She did. Seeking safety at her sisters home in Portland, Oregon, she thought her nightmare would end. It didn't. She was forced to flee once again. Homeless and on the run at forty years-old with three little boys, they lived like gypsies along the California and Oregon coast hiding from the man that threatened, "I will hunt you down and slaughter you like animals no matter where you are in the world." From victim to victor, Paula weaves you through her astonishing life journey and escape seventeen years ago in this tell-all memoir.

"Making the decision to get away from violence while physically trapped in a foreign country, Paula quickly learned her American freedoms had not traveled with her. These pages draw readers deep into her experience, and we witness her intuition carrying her through. Just when we think she is safe, the story turns, and she is on the run again with her three sons. It's an unforgettable memoir, and a teacher for us all." Gavin de Becker, Bestselling Author, The Gift of Fear "Paula Lucas escaped with her sons from desperate circumstances and with incredible will and resourcefulness became an internationally respected leader in victim advocacy. Her work and the organization she founded is a lifeline for countless abused women and men around the world who find themselves alone or isolated in unfamiliar surroundings. In Harvesting Stones, this extraordinary woman shares her personal story. Much more than a cautionary tale, it's an inspiration and a model for anyone who seeks to transform their lives and help others in the process." Jackson Katz, Ph.D., Author, The Macho Paradox, creator of the award-winning documentary Tough Guise "Harvesting Stones describes one woman's descent into an inferno of violence, with escape complicated by her living in a foreign country. Hats off to Paula Lucas, who then created AODVC, a ground-breaking US-based nonprofit

association with a solid global safety net to help abused Americans abroad." Dorothy van Schnooneveld, Former Executive Director, American Citizens Abroad "An amazing journey of strength and determination to survive against seemingly insurmountable odds." Dawn Schiller, Author, *The Road Through Wonderland* "Terrifying, unimaginable, harrowing, chilling - thankfully this engrossing book ends triumphantly. Paula Lucas' cautionary story of survival is the stuff of news headlines, full of international intrigue, betrayal, domestic violence and virtual servitude in a foreign land. Barely escaping with her sons, she helps them heal while on the run from her abusive spouse, and despite poverty goes on to create the much-needed Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center to aid others in similar straits. *Harvesting Stones* is a testament to Lucas' strength, bravery, tenacity and will to thrive. Her tale is the very hallmark of resilience." Linda Janssen, Author, *The Emotionally Resilient Expat: Engage, Adapt and Thrive Across Cultures*. www.TheEmotionallyResilientExpat.com "In the voice of a close friend, Paula Lucas shares her shocking, unimaginable personal story - of domestic abuse in an exotic foreign land, of a mother's strong will to survive for her children, and of a woman's determination to rise above her fate to help others. Paula Lucas' story highlights the special challenges faced by Americans living overseas who are victims of domestic violence. She founded the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center to help others in the same situation. Hers is an enthralling story of courage and perseverance with a powerful and inspiring ending." My-Linh Kunst, President, Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas "Paula Lucas takes us on a journey into an expat marriage with a shockingly abusive man, her plight compounded by the circumstances of her vulnerability. Scalps will tighten as she is terrorized along with her three boys and discovers they are unable to flee. This is not a book to put down and forget." Laura J Stephens, Author *An Inconvenient Posting*, an expat wife's memoir of lost identity, www.laurajstephens.com About the Author Paula Lucas founded the Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, AODVC, in 1999 while homeless and living in a shelter after escaping the United Arab Emirates. In 2012 Paula also launched the Sexual Assault Support Help For Americans Abroad Program, SASHAA. The crisis center is a national award winning, internationally recognized program operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Her team serves the 8.7 million Americans living overseas, the 80 million Americans who travel overseas annually and American military personnel and their dependents overseas. Wrap-around services are provided via an international toll free hotline, 866-USWOMEN. Websites www.866uswomen.org and www.sashaa.org Paula trains nationally and internationally on issues facing American victims of domestic violence and sexual assault overseas. She conducts workshops on empowerment and overcoming life's obstacles. She has appeared on the Today Show and was featured in Readers Digest magazine (where she was described as an International Angel) Cosmopolitan Magazine, and other television, radio and print media in the USA and overseas. She and her team have won numerous awards over the past seventeen years for their groundbreaking work in victims services, including the National Crime Victim Service Award from the US Department of Justice, Office For Victims of Crime. Paula is also a Certified Aromatherapist. She is studying Ayurveda as a natural healing modality for her rheumatoid arthritis and plans to return to India one day for further Ayurveda treatment and training. Her family continues to live in the Pacific Northwest with their rescue cat, Amira T-Bo Kitty Kitty. Paula enjoys gardening, making natural perfumes and essential oil products under her brand, Akesos Garden, and spending time with her family and friends.