



The Life She Once Knew news release

AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL
411 University Ridge Ste B14
Greenville, SC 29601
Ph. 864.751.4844
www.ambassador-international.com

MEDIA CONTACT: Liz Burgdorf
864.438.6674
media@emeraldhouse.com

BLOOMINGDALE LIBRARY ATTACK SURVIVOR'S MOTHER ENCOURAGING OTHERS IN NEW MEMOIR INSPIRING READERS TO TURN TRAUMA INTO TRIUMPH



RELEASE DATE: November 10, 2020
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 278
PRICE: \$16.99
ISBN: 978-1-62020-727-7

For immediate release: In her new book, *The Life She Once Knew: The Incredible True Story of Queena, The Bloomingdale Library Attack Survivor* (Ambassador International; \$16.99; November 10, 2020), Vanna Nguyen shares the raw details of the horrific tragedy that changed her daughter's life—and ultimately hers as well—forever.

On April 24, 2008, Queena left work a healthy, happy senior, ready to graduate high school and finally spread her wings in a new world. But before the night was over, Queena would never be the same again. After being viciously attacked and left for dead by a teenage boy who was waiting for an unsuspecting victim, Queena's life hung in the balance. Queena suffered severe brain damage, leaving many medical professionals to give up hope on her.

“My life shifted from feeling normal to being utterly scared out of my mind,” writes Nguyen. “The ‘me’ I knew disappeared forever. Something horrible happened. My teenage daughter Queena looked into the eyes of evil—just as I had decades earlier. She fought with all her might for her right to live. Ultimately, she was victorious, but she would never be the same Queena. Our entire family changed as we muddled through the aftermath of an unspeakable crime. Over the course of twenty-five horrific minutes, we lost Queena—not to death, but to a new life no one was prepared to face.”

Follow Nguyen's story of faith, hope, and love as she recounts her own escape from the “life she once knew” in Vietnam to a life of freedom and possibilities in America. And be encouraged—as many who have already been following Queena's story have been—to see how precious every life is and how love truly can conquer all.

About the Book

In 1981, a young woman faced death as she lay on the floor of a small boat in the South China Sea fleeing the life she once knew in Vietnam.

In 2008, her teenage daughter lay fighting for her life after being brutally raped and abandoned while returning books at a library near Tampa, Florida.

The attack in front of the Bloomingdale library left Queena with a traumatic brain injury, sentenced to a life unable to walk, see, or speak. As Vanna Nguyen lovingly poured herself into caring for her now severely disabled daughter, she also battled with reliving her own Vietnam War survival story. And she must decide, can she forgive the attacker whose unforgivable decision changed both their lives as they knew them forever?

In *The Life She Once Knew*, Vanna candidly chronicles the deeply spiritual and emotionally powerful journeys of these two strong women as they fight for their lives and their futures decades apart.

About the Author

Vanna Nguyen is a refugee from South Vietnam and the mother of the Bloomingdale Library Attack Survivor, Queena. She devotes her life to Queena's full-time care and advocates for special needs and justice for victims of domestic, sexual, and physical abuse. She lives in Florida with her partner, Robert; Queena; and her two Shih Tzu dogs, Charlie and Princess. Her other daughter, Anna, lives nearby with her husband, Jonathan.

Vanna's wish is that this book's proceeds can support ongoing expenses through Hope Heals the Brain, Inc. and Queena's Medical Trust Fund. If you would like to make a donation to help Queena, please visit www.joinqueena.com/donate.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *The Life She Once Knew*, please contact publicity director Liz Burgdorf at media@emeraldhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out [Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl](https://www.facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl).

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. Can you tell me a little about yourself?
2. Why did you write *The Life She Once Knew*?
3. How long did it take you to write your book?
4. What was your work schedule like when you were writing?
5. Tell me about Queena before her incident?
6. How has Queena's event changed your life?
7. How is Queena now?
8. What was the hardest scene to write in your book?
9. Do you have any fun parts or happy stories from the book?
10. What message do you hope readers pick up from *The Life She Once Knew*?

Endorsements

The Life She Once Knew is an inspiring account of heart-wrenching, compounded trauma and miraculous triumph over evil. Vanna Nguyen leads us through her victorious journey over crises which could destroy the strongest among us. As she shares her sacrificial love for her daughter and faith in her Savior, she motivates us all to rise as champions of life and forgiveness.

Tina Yeager, LMHC

Award-Winning Author, Speaker, Flourish-Meant Podcast Host, Life Coach

The Life She Once Knew is a very compelling and uplifting book. It seems to capture the spirit of Queena and her loving family. I don't believe I have ever met a person and family whose faith is so extraordinary especially under the circumstances that were put upon them. We can all learn from Queena, and I believe you will also better appreciate your life and your family after reading her story in *The Life She Once Knew: The Incredible True Story of Queena, The Bloomingdale Library Attack Survivor*.

Steve Stock

CEO, Guy Harvey Inc.

This family has endured tragedy and horrific events that most Americans would find inconceivable. The resilience and courage shown in the face of these events gives us an enormously inspiring story and will change your life for the better. What happened to Queena was unthinkable, but it happened. Her entire bright future was stolen in what seemed like moments. However, what happened after that, through the love of her sister Anna, her mom Vanna, her countless friends and more, will give you chills. If you need an example of the love, courage, and determination people can show, even in unfathomable circumstances, read this book.

Caryn McDermott

IB Coordinator/Assistant Principal (retired)

Land O'Lakes High School

Land O'Lakes, Florida

Vanna Nguyen's book is an amazing parallel account of two real-life stories of courage and survival. If you wonder how much a person can endure and still come out on top, wonder no more. This story of an inspiring mother-daughter relationship of relentless love will show you.

David Yates

Producer, *Dolphin Tale* and *Dolphin Tale 2*

Former CEO: Clearwater Marine Aquarium and Ironman Triathlon Company

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This powerful account of courage in response to evil chronicles the birth and maturing of faith in the wake of this world's shocking malevolence. Vanna Nguyen's haunting account of her innocent daughter's attack, set against the backdrop of Vanna's own struggle as a young Vietnamese "boat person" fleeing for her life, is gripping from the first to the very last word. My mom-heart was touched by this mother's anguish and need to defend her beloved daughter. My cry for rigid justice was challenged by her extraordinary efforts to forgive the attacker, based on her submission to God's Word. And my sense of hope was buoyed by the way God upheld this precious family through the process of redefining and finding joy in each moment. Profound, life-changing truths in every chapter. Truly a must-read.

Debora M. Coty

Inspirational speaker and award-winning author of over 40 books, including the best-selling *Too Blessed to be Stressed* series with over 1.3 million copies sold in multiple languages worldwide
www.DeboraCoty.com

Riveting! An emotional rollercoaster! Three women's lives changed forever over a gruesome incident at a library. Hope, faith and love kept them together and their lights bright. A must read!

Thutrong Alexis Nguyen

Healthcare executive, CEO, Board Member

I was riveted by this book that masterfully weaves together the back story of Queena's family's escape from communism, and her journey of survival following the horrific attack that left her blind and in a wheelchair.

If you think the focus of *The Life She Once Knew* will be mere sadness and tragedy, you are sorely mistaken. It instead serves as an anthem for female empowerment; proof of the commitment that a community has for a survivor; and a testament to the love Jesus Christ has for us all.

I recommend this book to anyone who needs inspiration, and to those who want to learn what it means to NEVER give up.

Renee Warmack, MPA

Producer | Speaker | Coach

Renee Warmack Productions, LLC



author bio

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VANNA NGUYEN

Author of "The Life She Once Knew"



As a young child, Vanna Nguyen enjoyed a prestigious life in South Vietnam until the country's fall to Communism in 1975. After risking her life for the dream of freedom, she fled to the United States where she became a citizen and raised her two daughters, Anna and Queena. Life was perfect until 18-year-old Queena was brutally attacked and raped while dropping books off at the local library. As a result of the attack, Vanna lost not only her once-thriving small business, but she also lost her beloved daughter as she knew her. Today, Vanna is a tireless advocate for Queena's rehabilitation from traumatic brain injury sustained during the attack. Vanna manages the popular Join Queena website and official social media accounts. Vanna was compelled to write her memoir to share her journey as a refugee and as a mother whose daughter suffered a traumatic brain injury. Vanna hopes her story will inspire others and will imbue them with strength.


Connect with the Author

 www.thelifesheonceknew.com

 www.joinqueena.com

 [@QUEENATrueStory](https://twitter.com/QUEENATrueStory)

 www.facebook.com/QUEENATrueStory

 vannablue9@yahoo.com

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