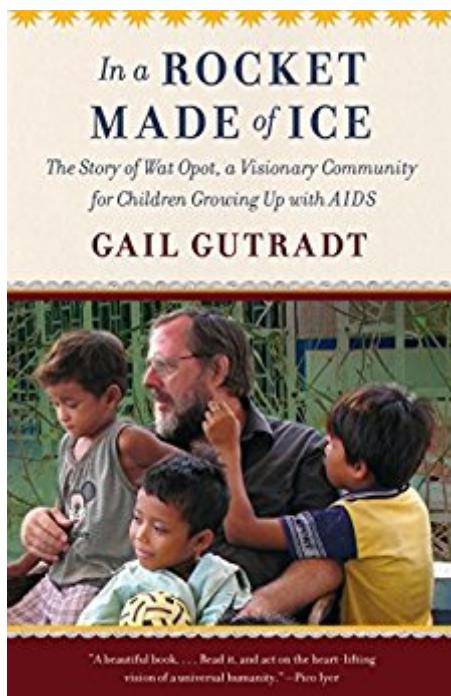


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# In A Rocket Made Of Ice: Among The Children Of Wat Opot



## Synopsis

A beautifully told, inspiring true story of one woman's volunteer experiences at an orphanage in rural Cambodia—a book that embodies the belief that love, compassion, and generosity of spirit can overcome even the most fearsome of obstacles. Gail Gutradt was at a crossroads in her life when she learned of the Wat Opot Children's Community. Begun with just fifty dollars in the pocket of Wayne Dale Matthysse, a former Marine Corps medic in Vietnam, Wat Opot, a temple complex nestled among Cambodia's verdant rice paddies, was once a haunted scrubland that became a place of healing and respite where children with or orphaned by HIV/AIDS could live outside of fear or judgment, and find a new family—a place that Gutradt calls "a workshop for souls." Disarming, funny, deeply moving, *In a Rocket Made of Ice* gathers the stories of children saved and changed by this very special place, and of one woman's transformation in trying to help them. With wry perceptiveness and stunning humanity and humor, this courageous, surprising, and evocative memoir etches the people of Wat Opot forever on your heart. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a well written, inspirational book that changed my life. I actually hired a tuktuk and visited Wat Opot last month (October 2014) and brought them supplies. I was met by delightful group of children and young adults who live at Wat Opot. There are about 50 children living at the community and they are a bundle of joy: They are obviously loved and well cared for despite overwhelming odds and loss. I was impressed by the clinic, the school, the music and art program. During my visit, I had a chance to visit with Wayne Matthysse, a U. S. Marine Corps Medic, who, with co-founder Vandin San opened Wat Opot as a hospice for people with AIDS in the years before antiretroviral medications were available in Cambodia. Through Wayne's love, personal sacrifice, and attention to detail, the community has grown and thrived. This book confirmed once again that one person can make a huge difference in this world. I am forever in debt to Wayne and the author, Gail Gutradt, and most importantly, the children of Wat Opot for reinforcing my belief in mankind and the power of love. I've been a member of a bookclub in Florida for many years and this book will be number one on my list of recommendations for year 2015. The author has graciously offered to teleconference when we review the book.

Written in a very ego-less fashion. A glimpse into the complexities and simplicity of our ability to give life, light, respect, love and dignity to ourselves and others.

A wonderful lesson in humanity at its very best. Ms Gutradt has written a hauntingly beautiful account of love and compassion.

I love reading stories about such amazing people. It makes me want to do more to improve the lives of those we so often forget. It reminded me of the AIDS work I'm doing with the Nyanya Project in Africa.

A most relevant read. Not only does it give an accurate account of what orphanages are here in Cambodia, but it sheds light on a very immediate situation with HIV/AIDS.

This is a really great book. If you need this for college talking about Aids then this is your book

Great book. Moving, inspiring, heartwarming and heartbreak. It's about love and hope. (Have the tissues handy.)

This is an amazing story of people stepping out in faith to help others. An amazing story of people's lives affected by Aids.

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