

FADIMAN, Anne (1953-), USA

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures (1997)

Dt Der Geist packt dich und du stürzt zu Boden. Ein Hmong-Kind, seine westlichen Ärzte und der Zusammenprall zweier Kulturen (2000), Üb: Leonie v.Reppert – Bismarck

Am Beispiel einer in einem vegetativen Zustand endenden Epilepsie bei einem Kleinkind entwickelt die Autorin aufgrund sorgfältiger Recherche das Thema des unversöhnlichen Zusammenpralls zwischen der Kultur einer aus Laos in die USA geflüchteten Volksgruppe und ihren Vorstellungen von Krankheit und Gesundheit mit dem amerikanischen (im Untertitel fälschlich mit "westlichen" übersetzt) Medizinsystem. Die Epilepsievorstellung der Hmong ist eine heilig-dämonische, bei der einerseits ein böser Geist die Seele des Kranken entführt, andererseits Epilepsie als Auserwähltheit gilt und zum Beruf des Schamanen und rituellen Heilers qualifiziert.

Zur Autorin (Wiki 2.4.25):

„**Anne Fadiman** (born August 7, 1953) is an American essayist and reporter. Her interests include literary journalism, essays, memoir, and autobiography. She has received the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Current Interest, and the Salon Book Award.



She is the daughter of Clifton Fadiman, who was active in the literary, radio, and television worlds, and Annalee Jacoby Fadiman, a World War II correspondent and author. She attended Harvard University, graduating in 1975 from Radcliffe College with a bachelor of arts degree. At Harvard, she roomed with Wendy Lesser, a future writer. (Benazir Bhutto and Kathleen Kennedy lived in the same dorm).

Fadiman has had a career in reporting and writing. Her 1997 book ***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*** won the 1997 National Book Critics Circle Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Current Interest, and the Salon Book Award. She conducted research in a small county hospital in California, and examined the cultural and medical issues of a Hmong family from Laos who had a child with **epilepsy**. Their efforts to get treatment for the child were constrained by cultural, linguistic, and medical differences as well as limitation of the American medical system. Their culture had a different explanation for epilepsy.

She also wrote two books of essays. The first, *Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*, was published in 1998. The second, *At Large and At Small: Familiar Essays* (2007), touched on such topics as Arctic explorers, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and ice cream; it was the source of a quotation in *The New York Times* Sunday Acrostic.

She edited *Rereadings: Seventeen Writers Revisit Books They Love* (2005) and the *Best American Essays 2003*.

Fadiman has published a memoir about her relationship with her father, *The Wine Lover's Daughter* (2017).

Fadiman was a founding editor of the Library of Congress magazine *Civilization*.

She was the fourth editor of the Phi Beta Kappa quarterly *The American Scholar* since 1997. Under her direction, it won three National Magazine Awards in six years. She left *The American Scholar* in 2004; she was paid an annual salary of \$60,000, and was in the midst of a dispute over budgetary issues. At the time of her departure, the journal faced a budget deficit of about \$250,000; its circulation was about 28,000.

Since January 2005, in a program established by Yale alumnus Paul E. Francis, Anne Fadiman has been Yale University's first Francis Writer in Residence, a position that allows her to teach one or two non-fiction writing seminars each year, and advise, mentor, and interact with students and editors of undergraduate publications.

In 2012 she received the Richard H. Brodhead '68 Prize for Teaching Excellence by Non-Ladder Faculty.

Fadiman is married to American author George Howe Colt. They have two children and a dog named Typo."

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