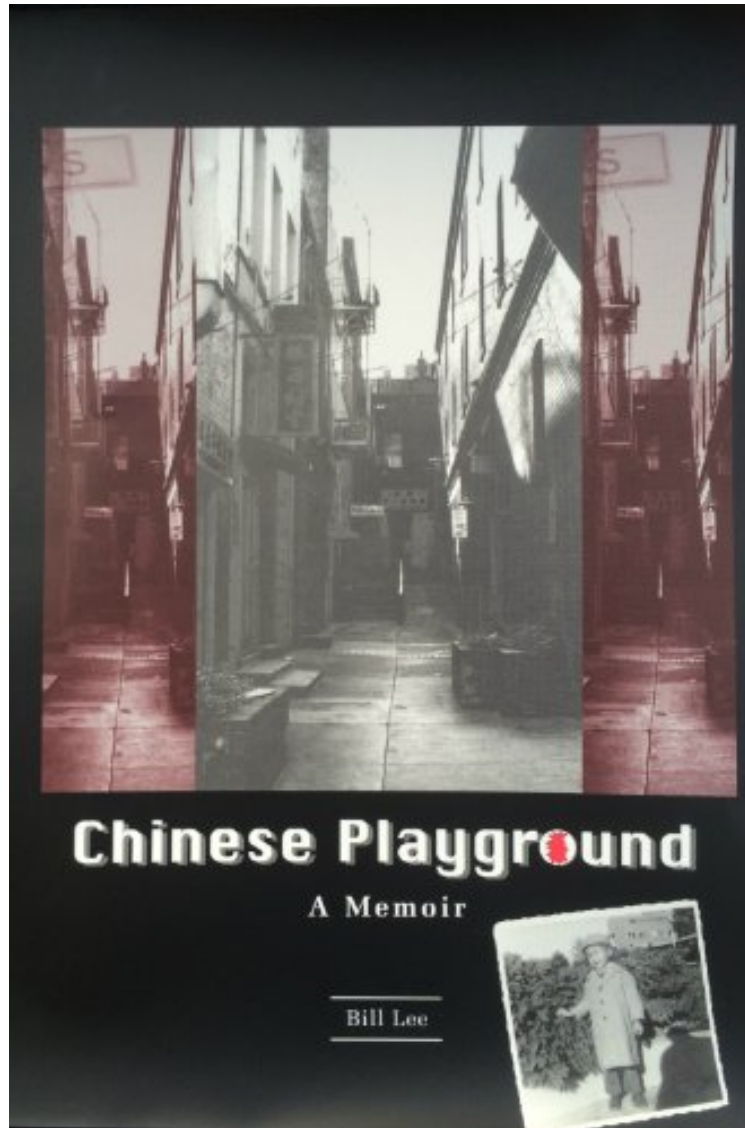


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## Chinese Playground: A Memoir (English Edition)

*Von Bill Lee*

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**Von Bill Lee : Chinese Playground: A Memoir (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chinese Playground: A Memoir (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Insightful and informative, but needed better editing.Von Ein KundeI grew up in Chinatown around the time that Bill Lee did and shared many of his experiences. It offers many accurate and informative insights into the life Chinese American life in San Francisco during the 1960-70's. As such, it is an enormously valuable sociological source document.However, I think it was unfortunate that Bill decided to self-publish the book, because there are major

deficiencies in the narrative that I wish he had developed better. First, Bill suggests that he became a bully and manipulator of others as an adaptation to his environment, but that he was not inherently a "bad" person as evidenced by his desire to avoid and mediate conflict with and among others. Bill's treatment of this personality conflict comes off as very self-serving and it is not clear how he ultimately resolved this conflict for himself. Second, Bill does not fully explain what motivated him to pursue this education at SF State and later how he was able to obtain a position as a corporate headhunter. One moment he is a poor underprivileged child in Chinatown struggling to remain untainted by the underworld there and in the next moment he graduated from SF State and became a headhunter. The transition seemed too abrupt. Third: Bill's handling of the shooting at the corporate headquarters seemed out of place in the narrative. I gather it was offered as evidence of his underlying personality conflicts, but his experience during the tragedy was not clearly linked (except superficially) to his childhood experiences in Chinatown. Lastly (and most dissatisfying) was his treatment of his problems with his son. We are told that Bill is having some difficulties with his son and Bill goes looking for him at the Chinese Playground (which completes the metaphorical circle). Bill doesn't find his son and nothing more is said about him. What happened to his son? We'll never know, unless Bill writes a sequel. I think that this would have been a much better book if Bill had resolved these problems and a professional editor could have helped him to do so. As it is, the book is still an excellent source document and should be read by anyone who is interested in learning more about contemporary Chinese American life, the difficulties experienced by immigrant youth in adapting to American life and the manner in which poverty and racism affect the personality and character development of Chinese American men.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Inspiring and Heart-Filled Book  
Von Ein Kunde  
Chinese Playground I think was a very well written and heart filled book. Bill Lee tells a story about himself being raised in China Town, S.F., in a typical Chinese family. He writes of his journeys through his childhood to when he was a gang-member, losing all his "blood" brothers in the "battle," and finally realizes that this was not the life to live. He then tells of his business life and how just like in China Town, the corporate world was also full of greedy people. He then experiences one of life's most excruciating tragedies one can live. During the Massacre he remembers his childhood memories, but finally finds himself to help save the lives of his fellow workers and their families. He realizes that the world has its dangers and hatred, but one must live on and God in weird ways has put him on this Earth, not only to help himself, but to sacrifice for others to make their lives well too. I really enjoyed this book because it talked about real life situations that I have also encountered myself, and it tells a story of a wonderful man, "Bill Lee", and how he changed his life for the good, and finally realizes why God has sent him down here for. I also think this book is very inspiring to young adult readers and non-readers too, not for the gangs and hatred, but to teach us about real-life situations, to teach us and make us ready for the life God has set forth for us. I hope many others can write books like this one and read this book as well. As a person that was not interested in reading books, I couldn't let my hands off this one.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. HEARTBREAKING, SAD AND COURAGEOUS!  
Von Ein Kunde  
Wow! I read the book 3 times for self-serving reasons. I'm Mary, his biological sister. I never imagine that someone (my brother) would write about our childhood in such a good writing style. It's as good as "The Joy Luck Club" if not better. William did an excellent job expelling his experiences. He succeeded in capturing the inner feelings of growing up in S.F. Chinatown. It was fast reading and kept my interest. I recall William's cleverness in surviving in our family unit and in S.F. Chinatown's environment. His book reveals experiences about our father that I didn't know. William did position himself to be close to our father, and he applied the same approach for his survival in Chinatown. His book brought back painful memories, but I appreciate the courage it took him to write this book and understand what he had endured in the underworld of S.F. Chinatown. Yes, it was extremely challenging growing up in Chinatown. We had to equip ourselves to fight the various temptations thrown at us. It was no easy task. This book gave me insight about William's choice concerning his relationship with us that I never knew. It also helped me to identify his pains. I am sad that William holds so much hostility. In most Asian cultures the rule of the house is given to the first son. It doesn't make it right, but there's a price and then there are rewards. My siblings are very proud of what William had accomplished with his book. The one thing that I learned is that each of us can have the same mutual experiences, but can come away with a different perspective and outlook. It's a shame that his book isn't marketed throughout the country. He has an important message that needs to be shared with a much larger audience. William is a gifted writer and maybe one day, he can help other Asians tell their story. I enjoyed the review made by the reader on May 13, 1999. He did an excellent job in summarizing most of our thoughts. Thank you.

**Kurzbeschreibung** This stark and unsentimental recollection of childhood and coming of age in the back alleys and bustling streets of San Francisco's Chinatown reveals the sinister and pervasive influences of organized crime. *Chinese Playground: A Memoir* traces author Bill Lee's maturation from innocent child in a troubled family to a street punk, gang member, and college graduate struggling to break free of his involvement in escalating violence. Lee's personal accounts of two high-profile murder incidents are engrossing. The 1977 Golden Dragon Massacre in San Francisco

that left five dead and eleven wounded, was carried out by his blood-brothers who were engaged in the most violent Asian gang war in U.S. history. A decade later, a mad gunman killed seven and injured four at ESL, a high tech firm in Sunnyvale, California where Lee was employed. An unlikely hero emerges as he accepts his fate, employing his street instincts to save coworkers during the murderous rampage. Startling details on both crimes are revealed for the first time. Lee is also the author of *Born to Lose: Memoirs of a Compulsive Gambler*. and *Born-Again Buddhist*.

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**ber den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende** Bill Lee is a second-generation Chinese American who grew up in the underworld of San Francisco Chinatown. He is the author of "Chinese Playground" and "Born to Lose." He has written for the S.F. Chronicle, AsianWeek, and numerous professional journals. Bill graduated with honors in Psychology from San Francisco State University and spent most of his career as a consultant retained by top executives in Silicon Valley. He has been featured on The History Channel, Fox, AE Network, Spike TV, PBS, and Radio Television Hong Kong.  
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