

Hong was born into a family of 10 kids during the beginning of the Vietnam war. She was the youngest amongst ten kids. Her father got sick and passed away when she was only one years old. Hong's mom gave Hong away to her friend Mary to watch over her for a few years after the passing of her husband. Mary then gave Hong back when finding out Hong's brothers and sisters were leaving for America.

A year later Mary and her husband, who was a sergeant of a Vietnamese army, is killed by the Chinese. Hong and her siblings tried to seek refuge in Saigon but it wasn't safe. During this time Hong meets someone named Phuc who helped her when she was in trouble. Hong and her siblings decide to move back to their home village to get ready to leave. When they arrive they find out Ma was captured as a prisoner, forcing her kids to stay and postpone their trip. She is then later on released, giving them the opportunity to embark on the journey to America. During the journey they witness a murder and kidnapping which makes them realize the Journey to America isn't as easy as they thought.

Due to lack of food and money, Hong's brothers and sisters seek refuge in Thailand for a couple of years at a refugee camp where they. Hong is later on raped in Thailand and becomes pregnant with a bastard child. Her brother who was supposed to protect her feels as though he has failed. After this ordeal they decide to find another boat and take their chances overseas. They face challenges with the brutal seas leaving other ships who have tried to sail away to sink to the bottom of the ocean along with the people on board, many didn't make it. Fortunately for Hong and her family, they were found by a freight boat and taken to America. It was on this boat where she met with Phuc again. Phuc knowing that she was raped and pregnant he sympathizes with her. And consoles her by asking for her hand in marriage once they arrive in America.

Hong and her siblings arrive in New York, but the hardships didn't end. Hong still faces financial hardships while raising a bastard child. She tries to be a hardworking citizen as she is a mother of 5 kids now, four boys, and one baby girl. She tries and raise a good family but since she was always at work, her 3 older kids were left to fend for themselves in an urban neighborhood of Chicago. Her three oldest, go through lots of hardships as they try to fit into society and are introduced to gangs, drugs, and violence. Phuc becomes an alcoholic as a way of dealing with all the problems and he becomes abusive with Hong. He neglects her first child which was a bastard, and later on they get divorced. She loses her home and her business, her two oldest kids ends up in jail. Her middle child goes to college and her second youngest ends up joining the airforce. Phuc ends up in a relationship with a lady that he had been having an affair with during his time together with Hong. She finally meets a nice American man after two years of being divorced and remarries.

Even with all of the struggles in life, she tries her best to find inner peace with her spirit and all that surrounds her. Her life, her kids lives, and her new husband are all that matters to her and she finally comes to terms with everything she has been through. Her two oldest sons finally get out of jail and aim to make a better life. Her middle child becomes a successful movie maker and reveals the story of her Journey To America.