



# Southside Buddhist: Essays

*Ira Sukrungruang*

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# Southside Buddhist: Essays

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## **Southside Buddhist: Essays** Ira Sukrungruang

Carrying forward the themes and spirit of his previous memoir, *Talk Thai: The Adventures of Buddhist Boy*, and his book of poems, *In Thailand It Is Night*, Ira Sukrungruang brings humor, insight, and lyricism to his new collection of personal essays, *Southside Buddhist*. Here he cruises Chicago streets, treks Southern Illinois forests, wrestles with his ever-expanding body, and contemplates the complexities of the Thai immigrant life. He finds solace with his imaginary friend, Buddha; causes mischief with the boys in his working-class neighborhood; battles depression and suicide; and marries the whitest woman in the world, who teaches him to appreciate a world blessed by the absence of concrete, skyscrapers, and noise. This book searches for the truth of his memories, the truth of himself - a very Buddhist notion - while navigating the tricky terrains of urban and rural life with increasing awareness of what it means to be an immigrant son.



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