



**Vaddey Ratner**

***Music of the Ghosts***

Touchstone

Leaving the safety of America, Teera returns to Cambodia for the first time since her harrowing escape as a child refugee. She carries a letter from a man who mysteriously signs himself “the Old Musician” and claims to have known her father in the Khmer Rouge prison from which he disappeared twenty-five years ago.

Arriving in Phnom Penh, Teera finds a society still in turmoil, where perpetrators and survivors of atrocity live side by side. Soon she meets a young doctor who carries his own memories but also shows her a beautiful country on a fragile path of reconciliation. Meanwhile, the Old Musician anticipates the confession he must make.

Together Teera and the Old Musician confront the truth of their intertwined past, weaving a melody that will leave both of them transformed, and freeing Teera to find a new home and a new love in the places she least expects.

“Vaddey Ratner’s new novel . . . is deeply haunting in its evocation of place, profound in the directness with which it confronts age old questions of guilt, regret, and loss, and staggeringly beautiful in its masterful lyricism. A book like this doesn’t come around very often.”  
— Kevin Powers, author of *The Yellow Birds*