



MAJOR BOOKS
Publishing Catalogue



Major Books



Our Mission

Major Books is an independent publishing company dedicated to bringing Vietnamese literature to the English-speaking world.

Our Vision

Our name, Major Books speaks as a clear, bold, and audacious resistance against the ‘minor’ status attributed to certain languages and their literature in the global publishing scene. Our hope is to contribute, no matter how little, to growing awareness that there are no ‘lesser’ voices in world literature.

Our Ethics

With the acute awareness of translation as an art form bearing immense potentials and challenges, our primary goal is to offer translations that are not only faithful but also true to the essence of the source book. Our translators, editors and illustrators, being mostly native speakers themselves, are committed to preserve the integrity and convey the originality of the author’s work.

We take immense pride in providing our authors, translators, and all stakeholders with fair and equitable compensation for their invaluable contributions, with the hope of fostering a thriving Vietnamese literature and creative ecosystems.

Our First Chapter

Between literary treasures that have been overlooked or worse, poorly translated, and brilliant pieces yet to be written, we will bring a curated selection of works from a variety of authors, periods, and genres. Ranging from critically acclaimed post-war fiction, national epic poetry, to contemporary LGBTQ+ writings, we hope to present a well-rounded portrait of Vietnam and our diverse voices.





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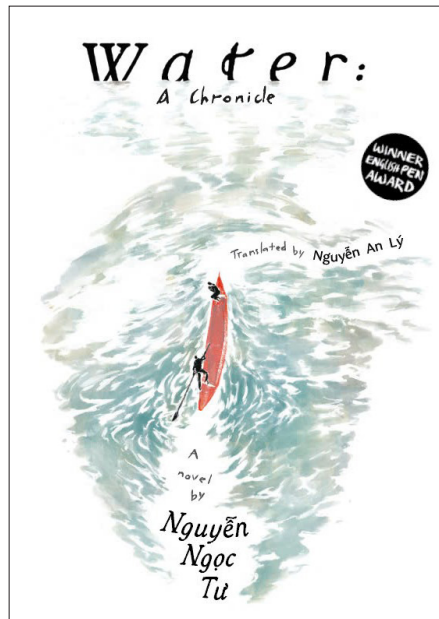


Water: A Chronicle

Biên sử nước

‘At once mythical and ultra-modern, this is a compelling story of the strange fluidities and tenacities of human identity and behaviour in the media-saturated environments of the twenty-first century, as ever.’

–Rachel Bowlby FBA, Professor of Comparative Literature, UCL



Abstract

After an eight-year long hiatus, Nguyễn Ngọc Tú comes back with her second novel. Mesmerising, poignant, lyrical, existential, yet claustrophobic, *Water: A Chronicle* encapsulates the beauty of what contemporary Vietnamese writing has to offer.

At the heart of this watery ‘chronicle’ is a dual mystery: a holy man on an island empire, and a desperate mother seeking his heart to cure her child. The mosaic novel of nine stories circles this enigma like the river’s currents, carrying with it fragments of myth and life from the great river.

A trans woman who wants to be ‘whole’, a shadow bride who wants to be fleshed, a mad woman with a colicky infant, a words-eating woman shielding her child from a fly apocalypse... The ghosts and ghouls that reflect upon the water surface may well be the everyday reality of river life, or simply the universal haunting of womanhood.

by Nguyễn Ngọc Tú

Translated by Nguyễn An Lý

Edited by Deborah Smith

Cover art by Nguyễn Thanh Vũ

Retail Price

£11.99 (e-book £6.99) | \$18.00

Format

Flexibound | 14.5 x 20.5 cm | 122 pages

Genre

Fiction

ISBN

9781917233002

Release Date

30th October 2024





The Author

NGUYỄN NGỌC TƯ, a talented and highly acclaimed female writer of the Vietnam Writers Association (Hội Nhà Văn Việt Nam), was born in 1976. With passion, she writes tirelessly and diligently. Her short story collection *Cánh đồng bất tận* (*Endless Field*) has received numerous awards, including the LiBeraturpreis Prize 2018. Other works of her have earned her the 2018 ASEAN Literature Award, and the 2024 Outstanding Southeast Asian Literature Award. She was listed by Forbes magazine as one of the Top 50 most influential women in Vietnam of 2018. Nguyễn Ngọc Tư's works have been translated into Korean, English, Swedish, and German.



Translated by

NGUYỄN AN LÝ lives in Hồ Chí Minh City. Her translations into Vietnamese include works by Margaret Atwood, Kazuo Ishiguro, J. L. Borges, Amos Oz, and the poetry in *The Lord of the Rings*. She won English PEN Translates Awards for *Chinatown* (Tilted Axis Press, 2022) and *Elevator in Sài Gòn* (Tilted Axis Press, 2024) by Thuận, and *Water: A Chronicle* (Major Books, 2024) by Nguyễn Ngọc Tư. *Chinatown* also won the 2023 ALTA National Translation Award in Prose and was the runner-up of the 2023 TA First Translation Prize. She co-founded and co-edits the independent online *Zzz Review*.



Edited by

DEBORAH SMITH yearns to support and participate in literary cultures that are liberatory, not complicit in structures of violence. This desire informed her founding Tilted Axis Press and translating from Korean, but also subsequently quitting both. These days she is feeling her way tentatively, in the uneven rhythms and nonlinear trajectories of neurodivergent living. She is grateful for every opportunity to do this work relationally.



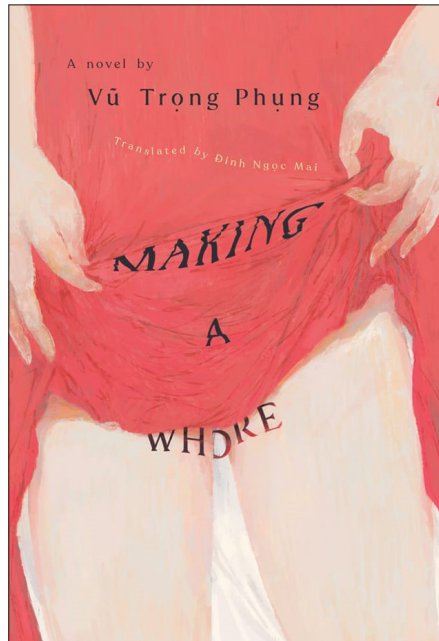


Making a Whore

Làm Đĩ

‘....an immediate and sharply observed modernist text.’

–Joshua Jones, author of *Small Fires*



Abstract

Heavily criticised upon publication and subsequently censored by the government, *Making a Whore* serves as a poignant defense for Huyền, its protagonist, deemed tainted by debauchery.

The novel follows the life of Huyền, a young woman born into Hà Nội's upper-class, whose innocent interest in her mother's pregnancy is kept at arm's length: 'You'll find out when you get married', so they say. Lacking sexual education from her family, Huyền turns to her peers for answers, opening up a world of childish whispers about physical pleasure.

As polite society demands Huyền to remain virtuous, she enters into adulthood with both the will to know and the will to suppress a young woman's burning physical desires. The torments of her sexual frustration spiral Huyền into a life of debauchery, one she might not ever want to turn back from.

by Vũ Trọng Phụng

Translated by Đinh Ngọc Mai

Edited by Dương Mạnh Hùng,
Alina Martin, and Samuel Tan

Cover art by Nguyễn Thanh Vũ

Retail Price £11.99 (e-book £6.99) | \$20.00

Format Flexibound | 14.5 x 20.5 cm | 219 pages

Genre Fiction

ISBN 9781917233026

Release Date 30th January 2025



The Author

VŨ TRỌNG PHỤNG (1912-1939) was a renowned Vietnamese writer and journalist, regarded as one of the most influential figures in twentieth century Vietnamese literature. In his short lifespan of 27 years, Vũ Trọng Phụng left an astonishing body of works across genres, from short story and novel to play and journalism. His writings are known for their bold and uncompromising portrayal of Vietnamese society under French colonial rule and for addressing taboo topics such as sexuality and sex work. Accused of ‘cultural damage’ due to the sexual content in his writings, he faced legal action, and his works were banned in the north of Vietnam, then nationally until the late 1980s.



Translated by

REN N. DINH (MAI) is a non-binary writer of both academic and creative texts. They graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a Bachelor’s in English Literature, and Hanoi National University of Education with a Master’s in Literary Theory. Their research focuses on queer theory and queer Vietnamese and Asian American literature, tapping into the intellectual excitement and critical empathy that a queer Asian diaspora can enable and liberate.



Edited by



ALINA MARTIN is a writer and journalist living in London. She has graduate and undergraduate degrees in comparative literature and critical translation from UCL and the University of Oxford.



DƯƠNG MẠNH HÙNG is an independent art translator & writer. Hùng’s interest in the dynamics between literature, visual arts, and translation is informed by their close observation of global and Southeast Asian socio-political and ecological histories.

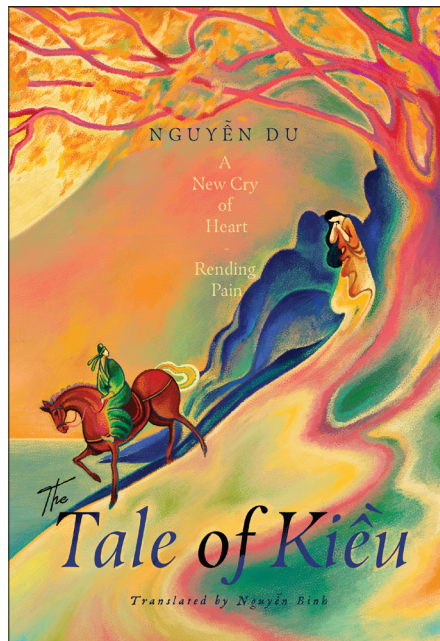


The Tale of Kiều

Truyện Kiều

‘*The Tale of Kiều* is the encyclopedia of a thousand emotions.’

–Phan Ngọc, 2001



Abstract

A poetic classic that has captivated readers for generations is given a new life in Nguyễn Bình’s translation.

The Tale of Kiều by Nguyễn Du is a timeless poetic masterpiece, revered as one of the greatest classics in Vietnamese literature. Through Thúy Kiều’s years of wandering as a woman in 16th-century China, the epic delves into the complexities of human nature, gender, and sexuality.

With a new translation that is attentive to the folksy rhythms of the original form, and complete with detailed notes that position the original in its cultural context, *The Tale of Kiều* will appeal to lovers of a rich story, its couplets lingering and speaking to the most intimate of our human emotions.

by Nguyễn Du

Translated by Nguyễn Bình

Cover art by Dusse Bùì

Retail Price

£12.99 (e-book £6.99) | \$20.00

Format

Flexibound | 14.5 x 20.5 cm | 230 pages (est.)

Genre

Epic Poem

ISBN

9781917233040

Release Date

8th March 2025



The Author

NGUYỄN DU (1766-1820) was born in Hà Tĩnh Province, Vietnam. The son of a well-ranked family of elites, Nguyễn was well-versed in the Confucian classics, but his road to prosperity was cut short by a period of civil war, during which his village was burned, and he had to wander Vietnam in search of a new home. After peace was restored with the founding of the Nguyễn dynasty in 1802, he joined the royal court as an advisor to the Ministry of Rites, and later an ambassador to China. He died in Huế, the imperial capital, at the age of fifty-four.

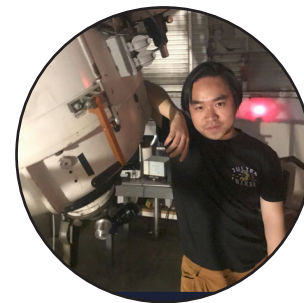
While dynastical records depict him as a quiet, timid mandarin, Nguyễn Du's writings show a bold, vocal and emotional man, angered by systemic abuses of power and moved to tears by the sufferings of people, from soldiers fighting meaningless wars to sex workers dying in solitude. Through his inventive use of traditional forms, Nguyễn Du detailed the agonies of his world and asked why injustice was so rampant, sometimes calling on the Buddha to bring salvation to those who had been wronged.



Translated by

NGUYỄN BÌNH is a writer native to Hanoi, Vietnam. Born into a family of historians and anti-colonial revolutionaries, Bình grew up with a belief in literature as an art that depicts and confronts the conditions of society. Their literary works aim to connect ancient traditions and canons in order to motivate a look into what it is like to be human in the modern world.

Bình is the author of essays and poems in both Vietnamese and English, many of which have been published in magazines and anthologies in Vietnam and the United States. Currently, Bình is writing a novel, and completing the first Vietnamese translation of Vergil's *Aeneid*. They graduated from the University of Arizona in May 2023 with a BSc in Astronomy and BA in Linguistics, and are currently a PhD student in Astronomy at the University of Washington.



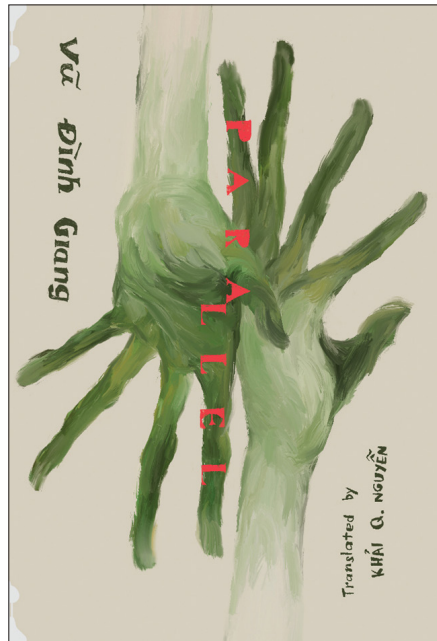


Parallels

Song Song

‘*Parallels* is a Wong Kar-wai movie of a novel: stylish and cool, erotic and yet touched with violence. An iconic work of Vietnamese queer literature now set to be embraced by the world.’

–Anton Hur, Korean writer & translator, author of *Toward Eternity*



Abstract

Intense, complex and cinematic, this is the first gay novel from Vietnam to be available in the English language.

G.g, H, and Kan are young, and homosexual. They soon find themselves caught up in a ménage à trois that forces them to grapple with devastating consequences rooted in exploitation, scars and shames from their private pasts. Embedded in violence, insanity, betrayals, homoeroticism and surrealism, *Parallels* is a riveting account of how carnal and emotional traumas can determine how we love and hurt each other; an exquisite début that introduces readers to the astonishing gifts of Vũ Đình Giang’s imaginative power and distinctive style.

A hidden gem in contemporary Vietnamese literature, *Parallels* draws likely comparisons to pages of Alan Hollinghurst, Édouard Louis, and Garth Greenwell.

by Vũ Đình Giang

Translated by Khải Q. Nguyễn

Edited by Samuel Tan

Cover art by Nguyễn Thanh Vũ

Retail Price

£12.99 (e-book £6.99) | \$21.00

Format

Flexibound | 14.5 x 20.5 cm | 280 pages

Genre

Fiction

ISBN

9781917233064

Release Date

30th June 2025



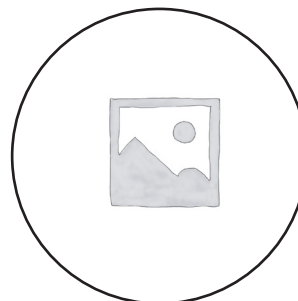
The Author

VŨ ĐÌNH GIANG is a Vietnamese novelist. He was born in Tiền Giang Province, and graduated with a Bachelor of Graphic Design from the Faculty of Industrial Fine Arts at Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture. In 2000, he won the Fourth Prize in the second installment of the Writers in Their 20s (Văn Học Tuổi 20) contest. He currently lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City. Giang's debut novel, *Song Song (Parallel)*, was first published in 2007 and republished in 2011. *Parallel* was translated into French as *Parallèles* by Yves Bouillé in 2014 (Riveneuve). His debut is widely regarded as one of the best works of gay fiction in the Vietnamese language.



Translated by

KHẢI NGUYỄN is a Vietnamese translator. His writings appear in literary journals in Chile, Indonesia, Nigeria, Singapore, the United States, and Venezuela. His English translations of Vietnamese novels published by Major Books include *Parallels* (2025), and *The Young Die Old* (2026). He has master's degrees in comparative literature and cultural studies from the universities of Perpignan, St Andrews, and Santiago de Compostela.



Edited by

SAMUEL TAN is from sunny Singapore and is currently working as a translator in Tokyo. Though he lives for those perfectly cool spring and autumn days, sometimes all he really needs is a good old tropical thunderstorm.





Tết All Around

Muôn Miền Tết

‘...a joyous and sumptuous celebration of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, Tết Nguyên Đán - a much needed #ownvoice work in translation.’

–Eva Wong Nava

Abstract

The first translated children’s book on Tết from Vietnamese, celebrating of Vietnam’s many different traditions of welcoming the Vietnamese Lunar Year.

When spring arrives, Vietnamese everywhere get very busy! Whether you live in the capital, the southernmost coast, or overseas – Tết is the most celebrated and important time for many Vietnamese. Traditions are what makes Tết a special occasion—but does every Vietnamese celebrate the same way? Do you prepare jellied meat like Hanoians, or braised duck eggs and bitter melon soup like the south? Tết All Around brings young readers on a journey across Vietnam’s regions and ethnic groups. Learn about the different ways Tết is celebrated; personal to some, unfamiliar to others, but sure to bring an air of festivity—and together they form what we know as Tết. So gather around and immerse yourselves in this stunningly illustrated book that hopes to bring to readers the warmth, excitement, and merry atmosphere of Tết!



by **Quỳnh Hương & Rôm**

Translated by **Ngô Hà Thu**

Edited by **Kim Trần**

Illustrations by **Halcyon**

Retail Price

£12.99 (e-book £6.99) | \$21.00

Format

Flexibound | 20.5 x 26 cm | 44 pages

Genre

Children’s Non-Fiction

ISBN

9781917233118

Release Date

1st December 2025



Previews of the interior:

VISITING PAGODAS

At the start of the new year, Vietnamese families usually visit pagodas together. The pagoda gardens are lush and green, and visitors from all around come to pray. Everyone sincerely wishes for health, fortune and prosperity in the year ahead.

The curved roofs of ancient pagodas glow beneath the blossoms of spring.

At the pagoda, we should dress respectfully.

NORTH CENTRAL COAST

Stretching along the coast, the ancient capital of Huế is home to many unique Tết traditions. As the new year approaches, families carefully prepare incense, square paper offerings, altar paintings, and a variety of festive foods – both vegetarian and savory – with thoughtfulness and grace.

The scent of burning incense fills the air, creating a warm yet solemn atmosphere.

PAPER OFFERINGS
During Tết, many families burn paper offerings – paper money and miniature versions of daily items – for the gods and their loved ones who have passed away.

INCENSE
Incense is made from wood and different herbs, which give off nice fragrance when it is burned. Incense has long had an important place in Vietnamese spiritual life.

FIVE-FLAP GOWN
First worn during the Nguyen Ly dynasty, the five-part dress called Áo Ngũ Thân (five flaps) has five flaps or skirts.

SINU VILLAGE PRINTING
These traditional prints from Huế are used in worship and Tết evenings. One popular design shows a lotus flower.

PAPER FLOWERS
Each year, families replace the paper flowers on their altar with new ones for Tết. The old flowers are respectfully.

MILLET SWEET SOUP
The taste of crunchy grilled rice crackers paired with smooth porridge millet has become something many kids love from the.

VEAL LOAF
A specialty of night in provinces, giò nạc (meat loaf) is made from meat and skin. If you see a loaf of meat, try.

SOUR FERMENTED SHRIMP
As Tết meals in central Vietnam meals complete without sour fermented shrimp served with sticks of hot and pork belly.

SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

Tết in the South Central Coast goes with the golden hue of marigolds blooming in every street corner. The crispy year-end sea breeze carries their strong and earthy scent into even the tiniest alley.

CÓM HỐC (HOW HOCK)
Made from white glutinous rice mixed with thick sugar syrup, com hock (donut) is a traditional sweet for many families in Phan Thiet. Stuffed in coconut, the golden-brown treat is a sure sign that Tết has arrived.

HARIKIDS
For many, it is not just about apricot blossoms but marigolds blooming on the veranda that capture the spirit of home. Marigolds can be grown in small pots or cut and placed on family altars during Tết.

CHAMPA TRADITIONAL DRESS
The traditional dress of Cham women features a flowing skirt and layered ornate belts decorated with intricate.

BOAT RACING FESTIVAL
Held each year on the second day of the lunar new year, the boat races take place on the Cà Ty river. The event features

BÁNH TRUÂN (PORK TRUÂN)
Made from chicken egg and aromatic flour, bánh trưân (steamed) is soft, sticky, and fragrant. Served around the

BÁNH TÔ (SWEET TÔ)
At the end of the first lunar month, families gather to fry bánh (fried) the treat made from glutinous rice flour.

SALTED PORK BELLY
Stirred of glory, chấy (fermented) pork belly – marinated in fermented fish sauce – are wrapped with greens in rice

CHÁ CÁ ĐÚ CÚ
A specialty of the Phan Thiet Islands, chá cá đú cú has a delicate sweetness, strong texture and tastes like the sea breeze.

WORSHIP

Our elders believe that besides shopping and preparation, Tết is also a time to show gratitude to our ancestors and the gods that have protected the family throughout the year.

LET'S stand up respectfully.

For safety, do not burn incense in a closed room.

WATCHING FIREWORKS

As fireworks light up the sky, people count down together to welcome the new year with new hopes and fresh feelings. Even strangers feel like friends, cheering warm wishes with one another.

Give mom and dad your best wishes – or a big, tight hug!

Stay close to your parents so you won't get lost in the busy, bustling streets!

Let your thoughts dance with the sparkling fireworks.

SOUTH EAST

Tết in the city feels a little strange. The prefecture is usually quiet when you get closer to the city centre where all sorts of spring activities take place. Flower streets, book fairs, Tết-themed plays, and don't forget to take a walk to the city or Southern another music, and more.

TẾT PLAYS
Tết is the most vibrant time for southern residents. Shows and street food, and crowds gather like it's a festival.

VEGETARIAN FEAST
Vegetarian diets are not only delicious but also good for our digestion. They are known as a gesture for

MEAT STUFFED BITTER MELON SOUP
Local people believe that eating the soup during Tết (meat) washes away the bitterness for the new year. The

THẢO LÊO (TÊO LÊO) SWEETS
Made from peanuts or black sesame seeds, the sweet treat is usually found on the offering tray for the kitchen.

TÉT CANDIED FRUITS
One of the delights of Tết is the abundance of candied fruits or mứt (most Tết) offered to guests and

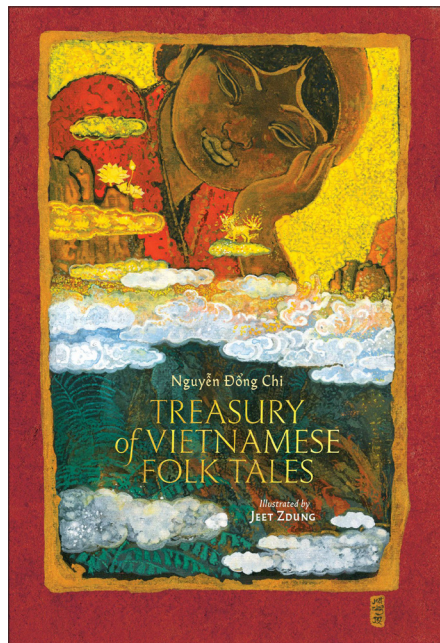
MATERMELONS
A pair of big, round watermelons decorated with ribbons, red paper and calligraphy is always placed on the altar.

BRASIED PORK AND EGGS
The pork is tender enough to melt in your mouth. Combined with the savory richness of minced pork and fish sauce.



Treasury of Vietnamese Folk Tales

Kho tàng truyện cổ tích Việt Nam



by Nguyễn Đồng Chi

Translated by Lan Võ & Nguyễn Bình

Edited by Kim Trần

Illustrations by Jeet ZDŭng

Abstract

An enchanting collection of 11 Vietnamese folk tales from Vietnam's 'Andersen'.

The Treasury of Vietnamese Folk Tales series is the most complete and indispensable text collection when it comes to Vietnamese folk tales. Gathering over 200 stories from across the Vietnamese people of legends, fables, and moral parables, there is a tale for everyone. The stories in Volume 1, curated and translated by Major Books, shine a spotlight on the women of Vietnamese folklore—not damsels in distress, but as heroes, tricksters, warriors, and sometimes even villains. Their voices echo through tales that are bold, mysterious, and deeply human.

Each tale comes with hand-drawn illustrations by award-winning artist Jeet ZDŭng. Evoking the craftsmanship of folk Vietnamese artisans, each artwork offers a rich, immersive window into the spirit and texture of the past.

Retail Price

£24.99

Format

Hardback | 22 x 30 cm | 144 pages

Genre

Fairy Tales

ISBN

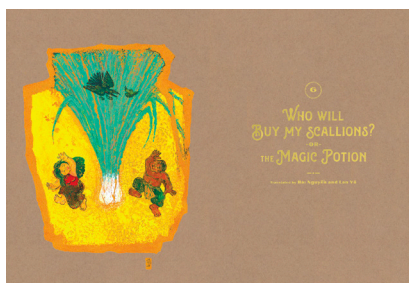
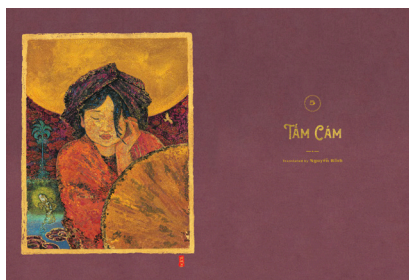
9781917233088

Release Date

March 2026



Previews of the interior:



The Author

DR. NGUYỄN ĐỒNG CHI (1915-1984) was a prolific writer, historian, and anthropologist from Hà Tĩnh. He is especially known as a trailblazer in the study of folk stories in Vietnam. His 5-volume work *The Treasury of Vietnamese Folk Tales*, a complete collection and study of over 250 Vietnamese folktales, has been recognised as a classic piece of work. His achievements and contributions have been recognised on both a national and global scope. The Vietnamese government awarded him the Hồ Chí Minh prize in 1996 for his contributions to the culture and sciences. Many cities across the country, including the capital Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, have streets bearing his name.

Translated by

LAN VÕ is a PhD student at the Centre for Women's Studies (University of York), whose research focuses on gendered performance in the context of the Vietnamese-American conflict.

NGUYỄN BÌNH is a writer and poet from Hanoi. Their translation of *The Tale of Kiều* received the Young Writers Award for Translation in Vietnam.

Illustrated by

JEET ZDŨNG works primarily in creating, writing and illustrating books for readers from 4 years old and up. He was the first Vietnamese to win the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration for *Saving Sorya*.



A Stroll With Time

Dạo Bước Với Thời Gian

*Selected in The White Raven's 2025 list
of notable children's literature*

Abstract

A poetic reflection on the passage of time through the lens of the nature and culture of Vietnam.

“Four stone dog figurines on a dresser come to life and follow the first-person narrator and a plant called »Time« on their walk through the four seasons. They observe peach blossoms drenched in spring rain, notice fresh shirts soaked with summer sweat, witness the blush of a blooming pomegranate in autumn, and realize that spring is about to return when the bare frangipani branches bloom in late winter. As the eternal cycle of life starts anew, the dogs turn back into stone. This elegiac poem weaves together symbol-filled depictions of Vietnam's nature, art, crafts, and architecture creating what feels like a series of colourful still-life paintings. At the end, readers are invited into a »time walk museum« where these details are explained.” (The White Ravens, 2025)

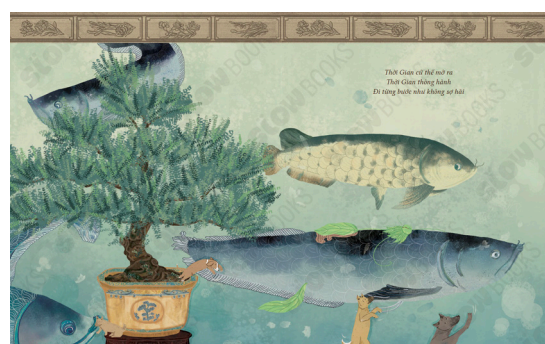


by Quỳnh Hương
Translated by TBC
Edited by Kim Trần
Illustrations by Maru

Retail Price	£12.99 (e-book £6.99) \$21.00
Format	Hardcover with Dust Jacket 19.5 x 26.5 cm
Genre	Children's Poetry
ISBN	9781917233156
Release Date	2026



Previews of the interior:





Dear Death

Thư Gửi Thần Chết



by Quỳnh Hương

Translated by Khuê Thi

Illustrations by Trúc Nhi Hoàng

Abstract

A sweet and nuanced exploration of difficult topics, through a young girl's letters sent to 'Death'.

Dear Death follows a young girl named Carrot. Was there anyone else in the whole wide world who felt as lonely as Carrot did? Most days, she could not talk to anyone or ask them any questions. And on such days, she would wish she could go to Death's place... to live there. However, the decision to move to another place was too big for a child. Carrot could not make up her mind right away. That's why every time she felt sad or hopeless, she would write a letter to Death. The book is a collection of all the letters Carrot sends to Death in the hopes her questions could be answered, when no one else would give her an answer. Carrot's questions are endless: what is real? What is love? Will Death...die? *Dear Death* is a gentle, thoughtful invitation to explore difficult subjects, such as loss, that young readers might want to ask about, but don't know where to start.

Retail Price

£12.99 (e-book £6.99) | \$21.00

Format

Hardcover with dust jacket | 19 x 27 cm |
82 pages

Genre

Children's Fiction

ISBN

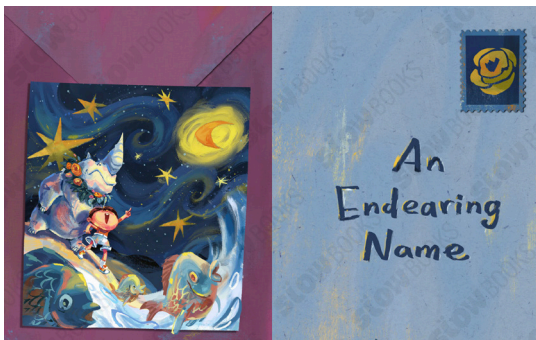
9781917233132

Release Date

2026



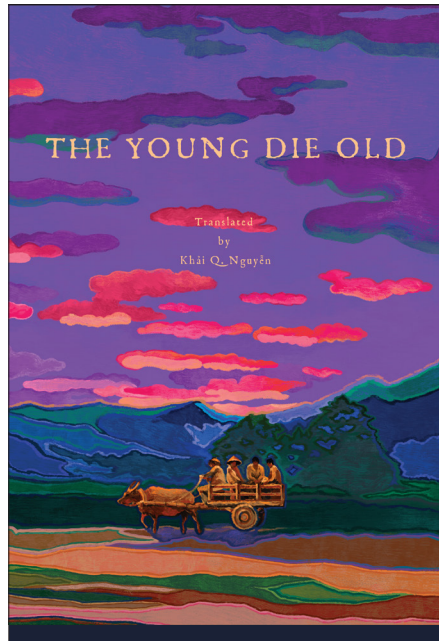
Previews of the interior:





The Young Die Old

Những đứa trẻ chết già (1994)



by Nguyễn Bình Phương
Translated by Khải Q. Nguyễn
Edited by Joshua Black
Cover art by Dusse Bui

Abstract

Mysterious, unsettling, but darkly poetic, this magical realist novel echoes the timelessness of García Marquez and Faulkner.

Set in the mythic village of Phan, the novel follows a tangled web of characters haunted by buried secrets, ancestral curses, and an unnamed historical trauma. Two feuding families vie for control of a mysterious treasure said to lie beneath the land, while a former soldier wanders the village, driven by fractured memories, and unfulfilled desires. Time folds in on itself, and reality blurs with hallucination, as spirits, doppelgängers, and collective guilt haunt the living.

Like a fragmented but lyrical nightmare, Nguyễn Bình Phương evokes the disorientation of a society grappling with the aftershocks of war, repression, and silence. The title speaks to a generation whose youth was lost before it began—children who age prematurely under the weight of unspoken histories.

Retail Price	£12.99 (e-book £6.99) \$20.00
Format	Flexibound 14.5 x 20.5 cm 250 pages (est.)
Genre	Fiction
ISBN	9781917233095
Release Date	1 st May 2026



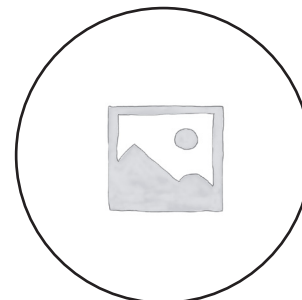
The Author

NGUYỄN BÌNH PHƯƠNG, born in the northern mountain of Thái Nguyên, is a prominent novelist and poet renowned for his innovative contributions to contemporary Vietnamese literature. Graduating from Nguyễn Du Writing School, he began as a screenwriter for a military theatre troupe, and later a literary editor at the People's Army Publishing House. Phương has authored six novels and five poetry collections, with notable works including *The Young Die Old* and *Mình và Họ*. In recognition of his literary achievements, he received the Vietnam Writers' Association Award in 2021 and the Southeast Asian Writers Award (S.E.A. Write Award) in 2022.



Translated by

KHAI Q. NGUYỄN's writings appear in literary journals in Chile, Indonesia, Nigeria, Singapore, and Venezuela. His English translations of Vietnamese novels published by *Major Books* include *Parallels* (2025), and *The Young Die Old* (2026). He has master's degrees in comparative literature and cultural studies from the universities of Perpignan, St Andrews, and Santiago de Compostela.



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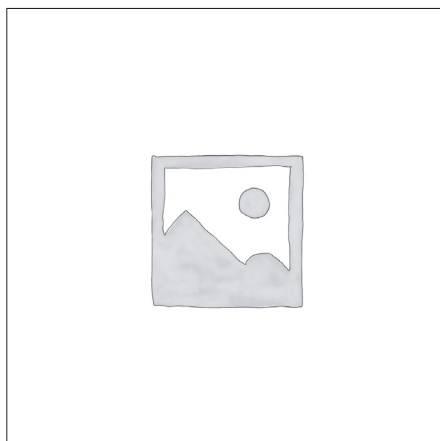




Crossroads and Lampposts

Những ngã tư và những cột đèn

Abstract



In an era when Hồ Chí Minh's foot soldiers and socialist industrial workers represented the ideal Vietnamese men, the novel follows the life of an upper-middle-class Hanoian who deserted from the army of the disintegrating anti-communist state on the eve of the communist takeover of Hanoi in 1954. Patched from first-person accounts – diaries, interview transcripts, confessions – the narrative is as gripping as it is enigmatic.

Written in the early 1960s, *Crossroads and Lampposts* captures the vertigo experienced by many Vietnamese as the peace brought about by the Vietnamese victory at Điện Biên Phủ in 1954 proved to be short-lived. The novel not only sheds light on a little-understood yet crucial period in modern Vietnam but, above all, provides an extraordinary depiction of the universal human experience of navigating changes and searching for one's identity amidst turbulent times.

by Trần Dần

Translated by Uyên Nguyễn

Retail Price £13.99 (e-book £6.99)

Format Flexibound | 14.5 x 20.5 cm | 400 pages (est.)

Genre Fiction

Release Date Spring 2026



The Author

TRẦN DẦN (1926-1997) was an influential Vietnamese poet and writer known for revolutionising Vietnamese poetry through his innovations in both form and ideology. Though many of his works faced censorship and banning from 1960-1990, Trần Dần persevered in his literary pursuit throughout his life. The origins of *Crossroads and Lampposts* can be traced back to a project sponsored by the Hanoi Police Department in the early 1960s. The handwritten manuscript was completed in 1966 and submitted to the Police Department for review. It was returned to Trần Dần 22 years later, in 1988, but remained unpublished until 2011. Trần Dần himself passed away in 1997.

In 2007, Trần Dần was posthumously awarded the prestigious National Prize for Literature and Arts, recognizing his significant creative legacy. During his lifetime, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hanoi Writers Association. In 2007, Trần Dần was posthumously awarded the prestigious National Prize for Literature and Arts, recognizing his significant creative legacy. During his lifetime, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hanoi Writers Association.



Translated by

UYÊN NGUYỄN is a historian of modern Vietnam, with a strong interest in modern Vietnamese literature. She holds a PhD in History from the University of California, Berkeley and is currently Lecturer in the College of Humanities and Sciences and Department of History, National University of Singapore. Uyên's current research project examines the communist takeovers of previously French-controlled cities in North Vietnam and the political and socio-cultural transformations that took place during the first four years after Hồ Chí Minh's government gained total control of the North (1954–1958).





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