



**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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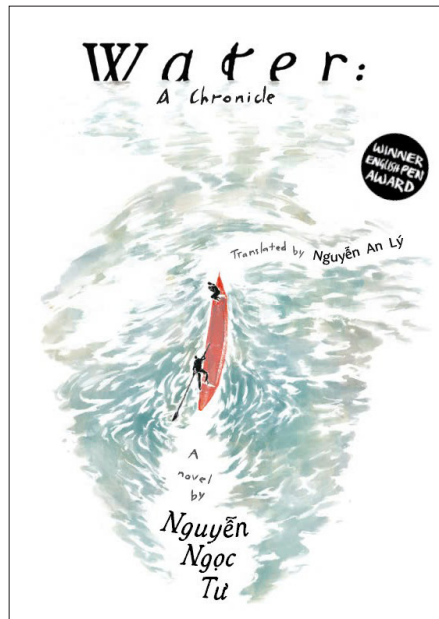


# Water: A Chronicle

## *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**

30<sup>th</sup> 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.



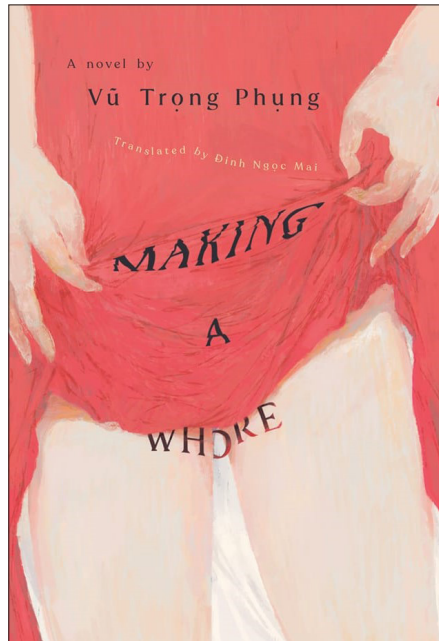


# Making a Whore

## 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

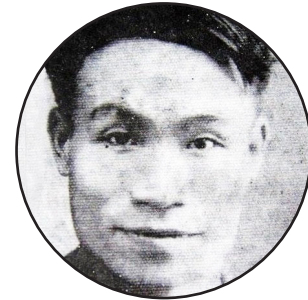
**ISBN** 9781917233026

**Release Date** 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

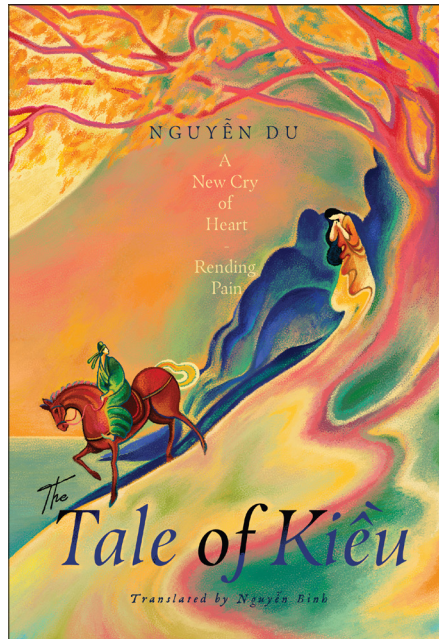


# The Tale of Kiều

## 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**

8<sup>th</sup> 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.

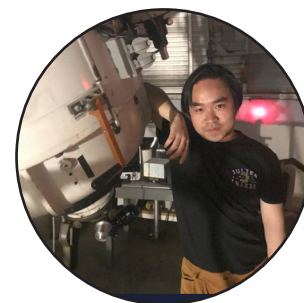
While dynastical records depict him as a quiet, timid mandarin, Nguyễn Du's writings show a bold, vocal and emotional man, angered by systemic abuses of power and moved to tears by the sufferings of people, from soldiers fighting meaningless wars to sex workers dying in solitude. Through his inventive 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.



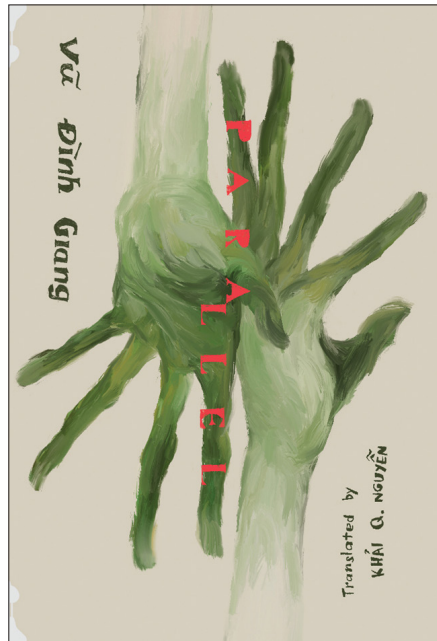


# Parallels

## 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**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2025



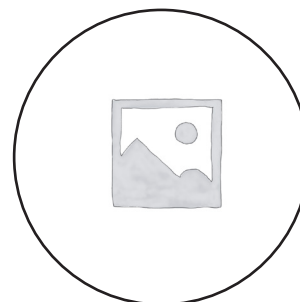
## The Author

**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** has translated two novels, *Parallels*, and *The Young Die Old*, from Vietnamese into English. His writings appear in various literary journals. He read cultural narratives at 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, flowers, 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 pagoda lighting, 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.

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

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

**VEAL LOAF**  
A specialty of night in provinces, giò nạc (meat loaf) is made from pork meat and skin. It goes like a hot pot of meat, big.

**SOUR FERMENTED SHRIMP**  
As Tết meals in central Vietnam aren't complete without sour fermented shrimp served with sticks of grilled 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 HỘC (HOW HOC)**  
Made from white pearl glutinous rice mixed with thick sugar syrup, cóm hộc (donut) is a traditional snack for many families in Phan Thiet. Stuffed in coconut cream, it's a treat in a sun-ignited Tết has arrived.

**HABIGOLDS**  
For many, it is not just an apricot blossom 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 áo dài of Chien women features a flowing skirt and elegant, intricately decorated belts.

**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 TRƯM (PORK TRUTH)**  
Made from chicken egg and aromatic flour, bánh trưm (bánh trưm) is a treat made from glutinous rice flour.

**BÁNH TỐ (SWEET TON)**  
At the end of the first lunar month, families gather to fry bánh (Bánh Tỏi) the treat made from glutinous rice flour.

**SALTED PORK BELLY**  
Stirred of glory, thịt muối (salted pork belly) – marinated in fermented fish sauce – are wrapped with greens in rice.

**CHÁ CÁ ĐÚ CÚ**  
A specialty of the Phan Thiet islands, chả cá (fish cake) has a delicate, savory 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 thank 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.

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

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

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 center where all sorts of spring activities take place. Flower streets, book fairs, Tết-themed plays, and don't forget to take a walk in the park or Southern another music, and more.

**TẾT PLAYS**  
Tết is the most vibrant time for Southern dancers. Dancers and musicians gather like it's a festival.

**VEGETARIAN FEAST**  
Vegetarian dishes are not only delicious but also good for our digestion. They are known as a pre-Tết feast.

**MEAT STUFFED BITTER MELON SOUP**  
Local people believe that eating the soup during Tết (Tết) will wash away the bitterness of the new year.

**THẢO LEO (TET LEO) 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 (mứt) offered to guests and

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

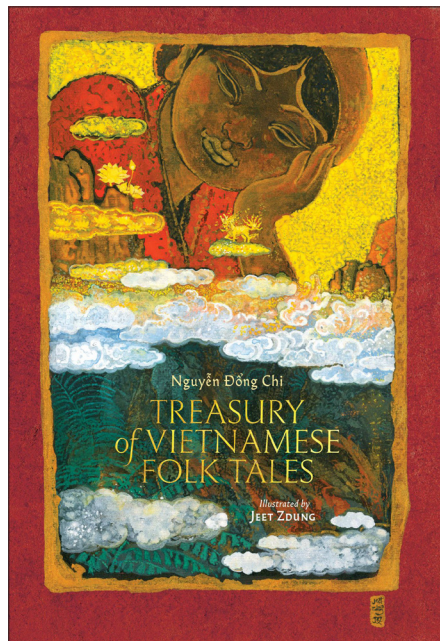
**BRASIED PORK AND EGGS**  
The pork is tender enough to melt in your mouth, flavored with the savory richness of coconut juice and fish sauce.

**FLOWER STREETS**  
Every year, at the start of spring, Nguyễn Huệ Street, one of the city's most beautiful streets hosts flower arrangement exhibitions.



# 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 ZDŨNG

### 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 ZDŨNG. 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**

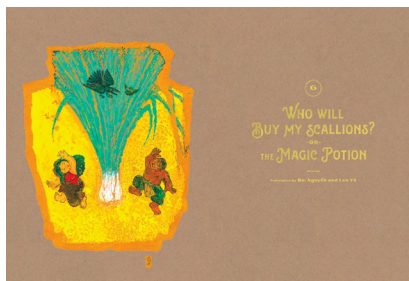
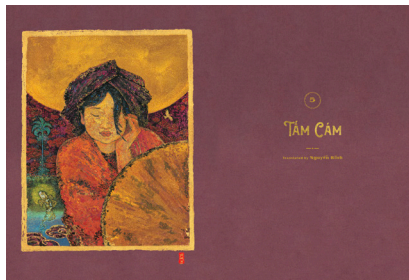
9781917233088

**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)

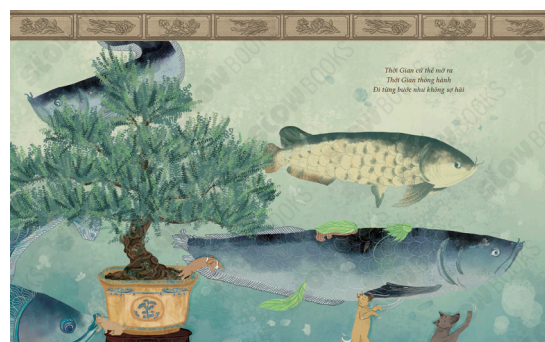


by Quỳnh Hương  
Translated by TBC  
Edited by Kim Trần  
Illustrations by Maru

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



## Previews of the interior:





# Dear Death

## *Thư Gửi Thần Chết*



### 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.

by Quỳnh Hương

Translated by Khuê Thi

Illustrations by Trúc Nhi Hoàng

**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**

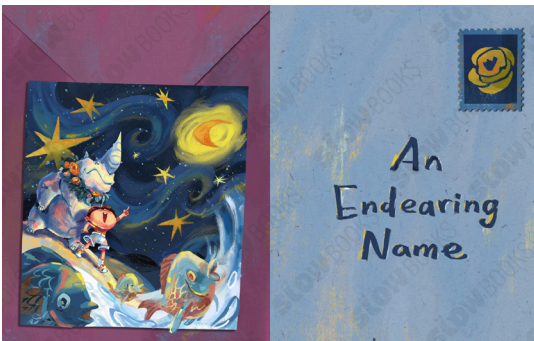
9781917233132

**Release Date**

2026



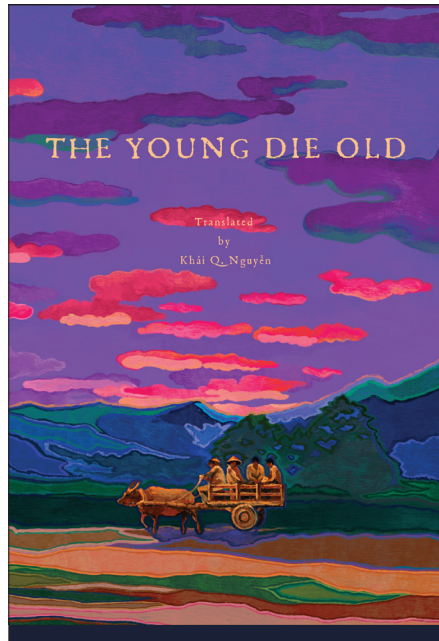
## Previews of the interior:





# 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.

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



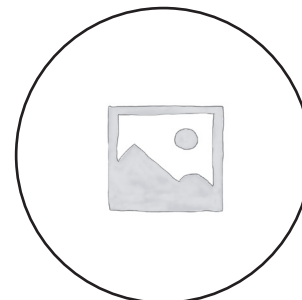
## The Author

**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

**KHÀI NGUYỄN** has translated two novels, *Parallels*, and *The Young Die Old*, from Vietnamese into English. His writings appear in various literary journals. He read cultural narratives at the universities of Perpignan, St Andrews, and Santiago de Compostela.



## Edited by

**JOSHUA BLACK** is a graduate of SOAS, University of London, where he earned degrees in Southeast Asian Studies, Languages and Literatures of Southeast Asia, and a PhD researching queer identities in Vietnamese literature of the early 2000s. He has worked at universities in the UK and Vietnam teaching courses related to Vietnamese language and culture, British and American literature, and translation studies. In addition to being passionate about Vietnamese literature, Joshua's research interests include gender and LGBTQ+ issues and refugees and forced migration.

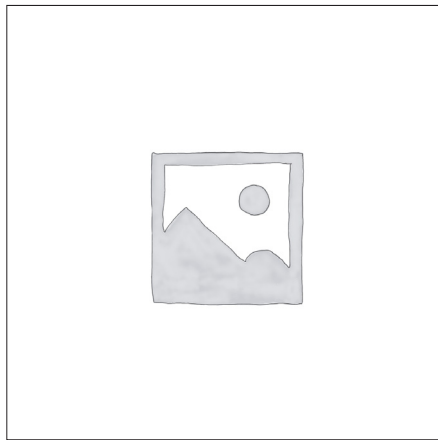




# Crossroads and Lampposts

## *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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