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Parallels

By Vũ Đình Giang

Translated by Khải Nguyễn

Edited by Samuel Tan

Widely considered as the best Vietnamese gay fiction, *Parallels* is Vũ Đình Giang's debut novel.

Key Points

- **A queer experimental masterpiece** which explores complex aspects of lust, BDSM, bestiality, and pederasty. It tackles head-on mental illness, childhood abuse, sex and alcoholism.
- **Internationally recognised:** *Parallels* has been previously translated into French as *Parallèles* by Yves Bouillé.
- **A commanding debut:** Vũ Đình Giang's writing has been described as free-spirited, full of movement, and deeply empathetic of his characters' pain

About the Book

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

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.

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

Praise for *Parallels*

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, translator and author of *Toward Eternity*

Vũ Đình Giang (b. 1976) is from the Mekong delta. He studied applied arts at Ho Chi Minh City University of Architecture and currently works in Ho Chi Minh City as visual art editor at Kim Đồng Publishing House. Originally published in Vietnamese in 2007, and translated into French in 2014, *Parallels* is his first novel.

'[*Parallels*] fearlessly obscures itself with its use of the epistolary forms, but it also charms us with the subtle narrative threads connecting the lives of its characters. The characters also resist formula: they are cryptic and erudite, cultured and self-sabotaging, complex and humane.'

—Norman Erikson Pasaribu, author of *My Dream Work*

Khải 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.

UK Trade Sales: Compass IPS - sales@compassips.london

UK Distribution: Central Books - orders@centralbooks.com

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