



Water: A Chronicle

By Nguyễn Ngọc Tư
Translated by Nguyễn An Lý
Edited by Deborah Smith



A stunning chronicle where ghosts of the past and hopes for the future collide in the delta.

Key Selling Points

- **Mesmerising prose** blending magical realism with sharp cultural critique, challenging Western perceptions of Việt Nam beyond narratives of war and poverty
- **Universal themes** of motherhood, womanhood, and resilience through a uniquely Vietnamese lens
- **Award-winning team:** celebrated Vietnamese author, award-winning translator and Booker Prize laureate editor

About the book

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.

Praise for *Water: A Chronicle*

'...a grimey, watery tale of the always-unexpected, of rough surrounds lending themselves to all kinds of fervor.' — Khairani Barokka, author of *amuk*

'Nguyễn Ngọc Tư [...] paints a complex and atmospheric portrait of the overlooked miseries of the often beautified Mekong Delta [...], to partake in the rare moments of hope and resilience, which carry in themselves a somber kind of beauty.'

— Thảo Tô, *Asian Review of Books*



Nguyễn Ngọc Tư is a highly acclaimed writer of the Việt Nam Writers Association. She is the recipient of the 2018 Liberaturpreis, and listed by *Forbes* as one of the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Việt Nam. Her works have been translated into Korean, English, Swedish, and German.



Nguyễn An Lý lives in Hồ Chí Minh and co-edits the online literary journal *Zzz Review*. Her debut translation into English, *Chinatown*, won a PEN Translates Award, the 2023 ALTA National Awards, and was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize 2023. She is a long-time fan of Nguyễn Ngọc Tư's work.

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