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## Moraga author brings Viet culture to America through young adult fantasy

Submitted by Meera Phadnis



Local author Giao Chi Phan Photos provided

art world of swordplays, air bending, wind walking and superpower."

An exciting young adult love story set in a fantasy world similar to ancient Asia, the protagonist, Luu Dong Tu, becomes entangled in a dangerous love affair with Obsidian, the King of Poison. The first three chapters of the book were written on Phan's blog for her friends who were in their 20s. "It got picked up by a weekly magazine for middle school/high schoolers so that changed the tone, numbers of words per chapter, and the style of the story significantly from chapter 4 to 10," Phan said. The same publisher later decided to publish it as a book.

"`Tuyet Den' has a very large fan base over the decade so when I mentioned the idea of translating it into English, many of the readers volunteered to help," said Phan, who was a published mangaka (comic book/graphic novel) scriptwriter for over a decade in Vietnam before writing her novel. "Without the encouragement and the help, I wouldn't have been able to do it myself in such a short time."

The Viet version of the sequel to "Tuyet Den" - "Liet Than" - was published in Vietnam in 2020. The English version of the sequel to "The Girl Who Kept Winter" - "Frigid" - is available on Amazon.



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