

# Dong Nai

## Writer Isabelle Müller: Live altruistically to be happy

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Trở lại Việt Nam để giao lưu ra mắt tác phẩm Con gái của chim Phượng hoàng - hy vọng là con đường của tôi, nữ tác giả gốc Việt Isabelle Müller cho biết bà “rất vui và háo hức” khi tái ngộ bạn đọc quê hương lần nữa.

“I feel as excited as when the biography Loan - from the life of a phoenix was published in Vietnam 5 years ago. It's like the boat docked after a long journey and I'm back home again" - author Isabelle Müller shared with Dong Nai Weekend during her return to Vietnam with a rather busy schedule (March 10 to Hanoi, March 14 to Ho Chi Minh City, March 19 to meet and launch the book at Ho Chi Minh City Book Street and March 22 to return to Germany).

### **\* Continuing to tell the story of ups and downs in life**

The Daughter of the Phoenix - Hope is My Path (published by Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House in March 2022) can be considered a "twin sister" to the biography Loan - from the life of a phoenix (published by Tre Publishing House in Vietnamese in March 2018).

In Loan - from the life of a phoenix, Isabelle Müller writes about the thrilling and fierce life of her mother - an ethnic minority woman in Vietnam named Loan (real name Dau Thi Cuc, born in a village near Ha Tinh City in 1929) who struggled to make a living during the turbulent semi-feudal and semi-colonial period in Vietnam, as well as facing sadness and discrimination in a foreign land since following her foreign husband to France.

In the book Daughter of the Phoenix - hope is my path, Isabelle recalls Loan's life when she arrived in France and, along with it, the life of a girl who was one of her five children: Isabelle's own life!

When we asked what stories readers can expect from this autobiography published in Vietnamese in 2022, Isabelle Müller replied with some curiosity: “It depends on the reader's state of mind. “Fragile” people may have some difficulty, but those with a lot of life experience and a strong spirit will have an easier time accessing more unpredictable emotional levels (when reading).”

### **\* The Light of Women's Power**

With sincerity, Isabelle Müller expressed that she was “very interested” in thinking about whether her book, although only “the story of one person among many”, “could also reflect the lives of others”.

In Daughter of the Phoenix - Hope is My Path, the author (originally written in German) recounts the journey of a mixed-race woman (Vietnamese mother, French father) with her outstanding determination and will to overcome poverty, misfortune, all constraints, racial discrimination... to become a successful person in a foreign land and return to her homeland to contribute to social work and charity.

Isabelle's success from hardships is due to her inherited will to live from her mother Loan ("I know that I could not have survived without my mother's example. Her example helped me overcome all difficulties" - she wrote in the book), as well as her strong belief in her own future.

### **\* Optimism**

With a wealth of events, developments and moods experienced in life, Isabelle Müller (born in 1964 in France) shares with readers in a surprisingly detailed and authentic way how to seek and find happiness, turning bad "negative experiences", pain, despair into "positive experiences" in life. That is "true love, warmth, affection, encouragement, willingness to help, empathy, friendship, luck and happiness"; as well as "living well on earth and enjoying this life".

Works by Isabelle Müller (Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House)

Reading 384 pages of the Vietnamese edition of *The Daughter of the Phoenix - Hope is My Path*, readers will surely gain more strength to overcome fear if any in daily life to live positively, live strongly and with much optimism and hope for the future. Isabelle Müller encourages people to increase their self-confidence to develop their personal qualities and talents and - especially - "live altruistically" to be happy. As the author writes from the heart in the book: "With anger and hatred we destroy everything, but with patience and love we can build a temple from nothing".