

Culture

'Loan' from the life of a phoenix

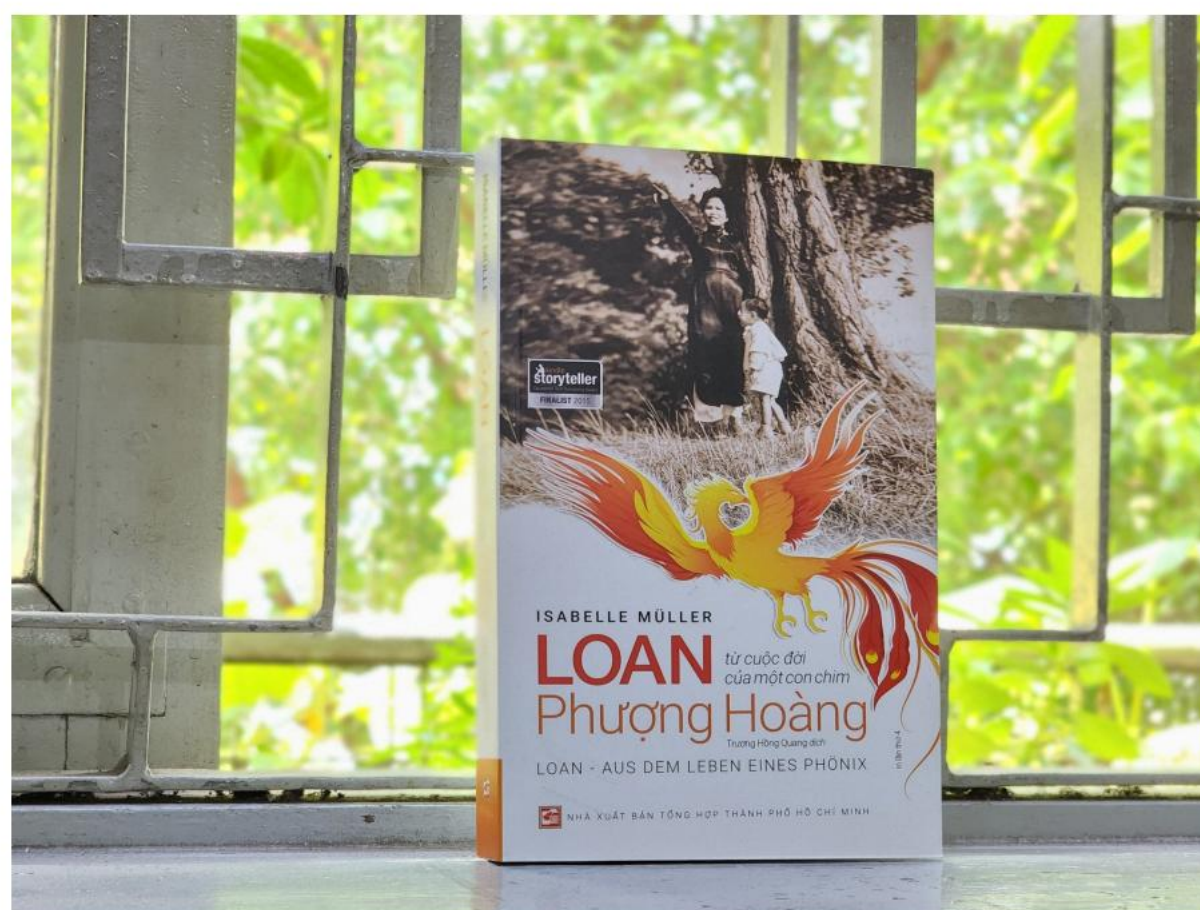
Tieu Vu

05/02/2023, 21:50

The story is about the life of a Vietnamese woman named Loan - who is also the mother of the author of the book of the same name.

The book was in the top 5 finalists of the “Kindle Storyteller Award” in 2015 and ranked as a best seller on Amazon (Germany). This is the fourth time the book has been printed in Vietnam. This time, Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House bought the copyright and launched it with a new look, the content was edited and revised carefully.

At the beginning of the work, the author - Vietnamese-origin writer Isabelle Müller defined mother and expressed great affection for her Vietnamese mother in a very touching way: "Mother" is the word to refer to mother in Vietnamese, "Loan" means "phoenix". All my life I have called you "mother Loan", as you taught me and my four siblings. No one would think of calling you by another name. What your real name is and why you gave it up, only I know, and even after many years. A strange feeling invades my soul as I write these lines today, when you are no longer here, but more present than ever. You gave me the task of writing about you; about your life as a woman, as my mother, about the Phoenix that you embody, which has been burned many times, and each time rises from the ashes".



Book published by Ho Chi Minh City General Publishing House in April 2023

The story is about the life of a Vietnamese woman named Loan, the author's mother. She lived through a turbulent historical period in Vietnam. After that, she and her husband lived in many countries around the world such as France, Algeria... Everywhere she went, she faced many great challenges but overcame them all and lived proudly like a phoenix.

Through the work, readers can imagine this woman "Loan" who, although not able to go to school, is graceful, strong, wise, and especially always has great faith in herself.

Reading "Loan", like many other books written about the generation of grandparents, aunts and uncles born during the war, regardless of their position, status, or fate, they all carry within themselves a "War Sorrow", although that sadness has a different level of depth for each person and each fate.

Read "Loan" to understand more about mothers, sisters, and Vietnamese women in ancient society – we can only use two words "extraordinary" to describe them. But also read "Loan" to understand more that the burning desire of "Loan" is also the desire of all Vietnamese women at that time, whether they had the opportunity to say it or not, that is the desire to find freedom.

Loan is a girl who was abandoned on the street. At the age of 12, Loan ran away from home, first to avoid being beaten, and her extraordinary life began from there.

"I scattered some of my mother's ashes in her garden. When I was almost done, a small whirlwind came and carried the rest of her remains from the open urn and blew them into the air" – The ending of the book makes the reader imagine a phoenix taking flight into the sky to find a peaceful and free sky forever...

Author Isabelle donated 100% of the entire copyright proceeds of this book to the LOAN Stiftung fund, which she founded, to help poor and disadvantaged children in the northern mountainous provinces of Vietnam.

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Loan From the life of the phoenix

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