

# In the footsteps of a strong woman

Author Isabelle Müller writes down her mother's story.

The life of the woman from Vietnam is traced with its ups and downs.

DENNIS KRIVEC  
UNTERREICHENBACH-KAPFENHARDT

Isabelle Müller achieved her breakthrough in 2009 with her autobiography "Phoenix Daughter." The life and suffering of the French-born author, who now lives in Kapfenhardt, brought her dozens of readings throughout Germany, leading her to numerous talk shows and even to Bellevue Palace to meet Federal President Joachim Gauck. With "Loan - From the Life of a Phoenix," she now tells the story of another strong woman: that of her Vietnamese mother. A story that Müller always wanted to put on paper.

"It is the life story of a civilian, an anti-war book," says

Müller sums up the essence of her new work. Political and military conflicts run like a common thread through the story. Müller's mother, Loan, is always at the center of it all: born and raised as Dau-Thi-Cuc in Vietnam in 1929, later emigrated to a French soldier's homeland after the colonial rulers' defeat at Dien Bien Phu, and later witnessed another colonial war of the "Grande Nation" firsthand in Algeria in the 1960s.

The story of civilian Lo-an initially tells of the dark side of life in Vietnam, long before the US intervention in the conflict. At the age of twelve

The Vietnamese woman has to face a She escapes from a forced marriage. She runs away, travels through the country, and earns her living in theater and on tea plantations, among other places. When the communists invade her village and play soccer with the baker's severed head, the young woman turns her back on the "unjust regime" and goes to France with a French soldier - her future husband.

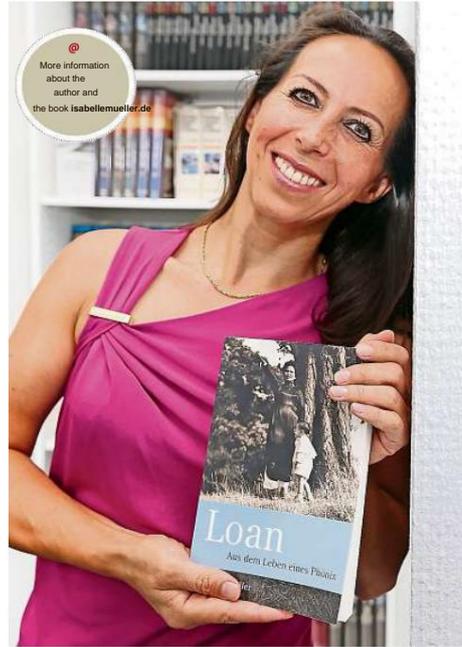
But even there, Loan initially found no happiness: "She wasn't welcome there and experienced a lot of racism in France," says her daughter Isabelle Müller. Her French mother-in-law tried for a long time to prevent her from marrying her son. During her first pregnancy, she was forced to live in a pigsty. She has often escaped death in her life.

"A Matter of the Heart" With "Loan - From the Life of a Phoenix," Müller also immerses the reader in the culture of the country on the Mekong River and tells stories of humanity, dignity, tolerance, and acceptance. For example, the story of a Marseille prostitute who shelters a pregnant Vietnamese woman.

"Loan" is just as deeply moving as Müller's first novel, "Phoenix Daughter." Working on the book took a great deal of energy and emotion. I had to live through every single scene and often cried," Müller says. The story was written over the course of years. Her mother often told stories about her life while doing housework, and I've now kept my promise," says Müller.

At that time, she promised her mother that she would write a book about her life. "She took it seriously, and I've now kept my promise," says Müller.

Over the years, the author repeatedly asked her mother for details of her biography, researched it, and spent two years writing after her death. Müller speaks of it as a labor of love: "Phoenix Daughter" was requested of me; I wanted to publish "Loan."



Following her own life story, Isabelle Müller from Kapfenhardt is now bringing the gripping biography of her mother, "Loan," to market. PHOTO: SEIBEL

"Working on the book took a lot of energy and emotion. I had to live through every single scene and cried often."

Isabelle Müller

## Isabelle Müller

Isabelle Müller was born in Tours, France, in 1964, the fifth child of a Vietnamese mother and a French father. After completing her studies in modern languages,

The now 51-

From 1985, Isabelle Müller worked in Germany as an interpreter and translator. She spent 1987 in Kazakhstan. In 1990, she became self-employed as an art dealer and, at the same time, learned about her Vietnamese roots on numerous trips to Asia.

as well as most of the scenes from the eventful life of her mother, Dau-Thi-Cuc, known as Loan. Since 1999, Isabelle Müller has worked as a freelance writer, illustrator, and columnist. Published

Her publications include various children's books (Krone Verlag), contributions to the local history of the community of Unterreichenbach, and columns. Her own biography, "Phoenix Daughter," was published in 2009.

One of the topics covered The topic of sexual abuse caught the public's attention. The author encouraged victims to break their silence in order to break the power of the perpetrators.

For three and a half years, Müller read to audiences 150 times in eight German states, was a guest on television and radio, and was invited to speak to the German President for her work. Isabelle Müller is married and has two children. pm/ki

## Loan Foundation for more education in Vietnam

The proceeds from "Loan" go to the Loan Foundation, founded by author Isabelle Müller. The foundation aims to build a school for disadvantaged children involved children in Vietnam. She is already in talks with the embassy in Berlin, Müller said. The author will visit the site to see for herself the situation. "Many children in Vietnam do not go to school." Often there is a lack

of school resources, the distances to educational institutions are long and arduous. In addition, Müller set the goal of supporting refugees in Unterreichenbach with the foundation. ki

"Loan - from the life of a Phoenix" is available on Amazon as a paperback and e-book available. ISBN: 9783000502187.

## There are no gaps in our cheese selection. Only holes.

<p><b>Lindenberg*</b> German hard cheese made from cow's milk, min. 46% fat, nutty, mild, 100g</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 0 79</p>	<p><b>BIO UNSERE HEIMAT</b> <b>demeter</b></p> <p>Our homeland - real &amp; good organic hay milk coins* min. 45% fat i.d. German hard cheese made from organic hay milk, outstanding juiciness, pleasant melting and delicate sweetness, 100g</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 1 79</p>	<p><b>Lake Lucerne Cheese*</b> Swiss hard cheese made from cow's milk, min. 49% fat, spicy flavor, 100g</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 1 29</p>
<p><b>Tender veal loin steak*</b> lean and meaty 100g</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 2 69</p>	<p><b>Serrano Schinken Gran Reserva*</b> Air-dried, with the quality seal, aged for at least 12 months, water-lean slices, a delicacy! 100g</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 1 79</p>	<p><b>Dessert apples "Gala", from Italy or France, Class I 2kg carrier bag 1kg = € 1.00</b></p> <p>2kg carrying bag! <b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 1 99</p>
<p><b>Maggi Fix &amp; Fresh various varieties</b> zB Spaghetti Bolognese, 39g, 100g = € 1.05 Bag</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 0 59 you save 34%</p>	<p><b>Schogetten</b> Trump to eat various varieties 100g bar</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 0 59 you save 31%</p>	<p><b>Raspberries</b> from Germany Class I 200g bowl 100g = € 1.00</p> <p><b>SUPER-SCORNER</b> 1 99</p>
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