

VIET THANH NGUYEN

“Compares favorably with masters like Conrad, Greene, and le Carré.”
—*New York Times*

Viet Thanh Nguyen’s writing is bold, elegant, and fiercely honest. His remarkable debut novel, *The Sympathizer*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2016, was the 2016 Dayton Literary Peace Prize winner, and made the finalist list for the 2016 PEN/Faulkner award.

Viet and his family came to the United States as refugees during the Vietnam War in 1975. As he grew up in America, he began to notice that most movies and books about the war focused on Americans while the Vietnamese were silenced and erased. He was inspired by this lack of representation to write about the war from a Vietnamese perspective, globally reimagining what we thought we knew about the conflict. *The New York Times* says that his novel, *The Sympathizer*, “fills a void...giving voice to the previously voiceless while it compels the rest of us to look at the events of forty years ago in a new light.” His voice is refreshing and powerful as he urges readers to examine the legacy of that tumultuous time and its aftermath from a new perspective.

The audacious novel has also been described by *The Guardian* as having a “Whitman-like multiplicity” as it “reads like the absolute opposite of Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried*.” Viet’s book *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* was a finalist for the 2016 National Book Award. Author Ari Kelman praises *Nothing Ever Dies* saying it, “provides the fullest and best explanation of how the Vietnam War has become so deeply inscribed into national memory.” His newest work, a collection of short stories titled *The Refugees*, explores questions of immigration, identity, love, and family.

He is currently the Chair of the English Department at the University of Southern California where he is also an associate professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity. Along with his teaching, he works as a cultural critic-at-large for *The Los Angeles Times*. Viet lives in LA with his wife and young son, Ellison.