



## Parallel

By Vũ Đình Giang

Translated by Khải Nguyễn

Edited by Samuel Tan

Widely considered as the best Vietnamese gay fiction, *Parallel* is Vũ Đình Giang's debut novel.

### Key Points

- A queer experimental masterpiece which explores complex aspects of lust, BDSM, bestiality, and pederasty. It destigmatises mental illness, childhood abuse, sex and alcoholism.
- *Parallel* has been translated into French as *Parallèles* by Yves Bouillé.
- Vũ Đình Giang's writing has been described as free spirited, full of movement, and deeply empathetic of his characters' pain

### About the Book

Unapologetic and daring, *Parallel* deserves to be on the same shelf with the sexiest works by some of the best living gay writers like Alan Hollinghurst, Colm Tóibín, Édouard Louis, Garth Greenwell, and Witi Ihimaera.

### Synopsis

*Parallel* opens, and ends, with the news about the suicide of Asia's gay icon Leslie Cheung. The novel tells the story of life, love, lust, illusion, and violence revolving three characters with common jobs and common lives: G.g, H, and Kan. Violence is ubiquitous in *Parallel*: domestic violence, school bullying, animal cruelty; violence returns to incubate another life of violence. So is solitude, permeating every line.

In addition to its ambitious experiment with language use and its erosion of grammatical order, it is the first literary work written about homosexuals in Vietnam that goes beyond presenting its characters as sex workers or drag artists—people solely defined by struggle.

### Praise for Vũ Đình Giang

'I appreciated his innovations and audacious writing style. I was struck by the darkness of the text. I had the impression that I had in my hand what is called a "literary UFO"...And I told myself that I absolutely had to translate it.'

—Yves Bouille, French translator for *Parallel*

'Vũ Đình Giang has created a language which resembles abstract art.'

—Cam Thi Doan, lecturer and translator

VŨ ĐÌNH GIANG is a Vietnamese novelist. He was born in Tiền Giang Province, and currently working and residing in Hồ Chí Minh City. In 2000, he won the Fourth Prize in the second installment of the Literature in its 20s contest. Giang's debut novel, *Song Song (Parallel)*, was first published in 2007 and republished in 2011. It is widely regarded as one of the best works of gay fiction in the Vietnamese language.

KHAI NGUYỄN is a Vietnamese translator. His writings have appeared in *CounterPunch*, the *Mekong Review* and *Asymptote* as well as been anthologised by great weather for MEDIA, among others. He holds master's degrees in comparative literature from universities of Perpignan, St. Andrews, and Santiago de Compostela.

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