

# A Whimsical Dive into Vietnamese Fables

Sandra Jo

*Reviewed in the United States on March 19, 2025 [1]*

Wild Wise Weird: The Kingfisher Story Collection by Quan-Hoang Vuong [2] is a great collection of stories that will take you to a world where birds are just like humans. In each story, the wise Kingfisher serves as the narrator, and the story

progresses with a good deal of humor and wisdom.

The story collection includes 45 pieces, and each of them presents a view of a certain aspect of life. Vuong uses anthropomorphic figures to depict human characteristics and vices, and thus, the book is reminiscent of the fables. This approach is not only fun but also offers food for thought, a process through which readers can examine themselves and the society they live in.

This makes the book quite exceptional as it incorporates Vietnamese culture in a rather graceful manner. The stories contain cultural details and touches that help to give a glimpse into the Vietnamese culture and thinking. This cultural diversity helps to enrich the stories and make them more interesting.

The lightness of the style used by the author is also seen in the seriousness of the writer, he has been able to make the story interesting and, at the same time, containing a message. The humor



incorporated in the stories enhances the plot, and the moral lessons in the stories become more enjoyable. For instance, the story “Sincere Concern” humorously argues the issue of recognition and humility and how people tend to react ironically in social relations.

Nevertheless, the collection is not without its minor shortcomings. Some of the stories may be similar in their message, and some of the stories may end rather suddenly, which may leave the reader wanting more. Moreover, in the process of using anthropomorphic characters, there are some times when the allegories used may seem quite basic.

## **References**

[1] Jo, S. (2025). A Whimsical Dive into Vietnamese Fables.

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R1GESELX1NPXB7/>

[2] Vuong, Q. H. (2025). Wild Wise Weird.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BG2NNHY6>