

Entertaining Adventures in the Kingfisher's Village

O. Wang

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

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“Wild Wise Weird: The Kingfisher Story Collection” by Quan-Hoang Vuong (Author) [2]. An English version derived from the original published in Vietnamese as “The Kingfisher Story Collection.” This fifth edition in English from January 21st, 2025, is a review and an update of the first publication in Vietnamese from September 20th, 2022. It contains 45 short stories in the same number of chapters, narrated in 27,680 words in 209 pages. It also includes 28 images from different contributors. The book is available in Kindle, Unlimited, Paperback, and Hardcover editions in the [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) marketplace.

This collection of 45 short fables was initially written in Vietnamese and embraces the central character, Kingfisher. Evidently, the author seeks to introduce foreign readers to aspects of Vietnamese culture through the amusing everyday occurrences taking place in an imaginary small bird's village. The first fifteen stories were serialized in the “Khoảng Lặng” (Quiet Moment) section of the Vietnamese magazine “Kinh Tế và Dự Báo” (Economy and Forecast Review) from 2017 to 2019. This fifth edition of the collection of the Kingfisher stories, a 2025 review/update, now includes ten new fables written after the first fifteen were initially published eight years earlier.

His language is unpretentious, and his verbal forms are simple. However, this style doesn't detract from the depth of the ideas presented in the stories. At times, it seems as if something is missing from the conclusion of one of his fables. However, after some thought, it's not difficult to find the meaning. For example, in the first chapter, which is only three pages long, one might expect more elaboration about “The Perfect Plan.” But without much details, after explaining Kingfisher's ability to distinguish his prey, the author explains that he doesn't plan much and goes from ideas to action. Obviously, one might expect more elaboration about “the plan.” However, the abrupt ending makes everything clear. “Well, the problem is that he cannot fall asleep on an empty stomach.”

Thus, the perfect plan is just to manage to eat every day.

All in all, these fables represent an exploration of the Vietnamese society through the derring-do and intellectual challenges of Kingfisher. It is a wry blend of wit and sociological insights. The stories keep readers engaged by analyzing not-so-trivial societal considerations while also keeping them entertained with the quaint author's humorous narrative style.

In addition, the illustrations accompanying the stories greatly enrich the reading journey. These vibrant images bring the Kingfisher universe to a brilliant visual life. This book is a must-have for those who appreciate intelligent storytelling with a touch of cultural depth.

The author achieved an excellent mix of humor while maintaining the reader's interest in his multifaceted representation of the Vietnamese mystical culture.

References

- [1] Wang, O. (2025, March 19). Entertaining Adventures in the Kingfisher's Village. <https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/RLDXOYJSJGZU1/>
- [2] Vuong, Q. H. (2024). *Wild Wise Weird*. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BG2NNHY6>

Appendix

Screenshot of the review by O. Wang on the Amazon book page [2].

