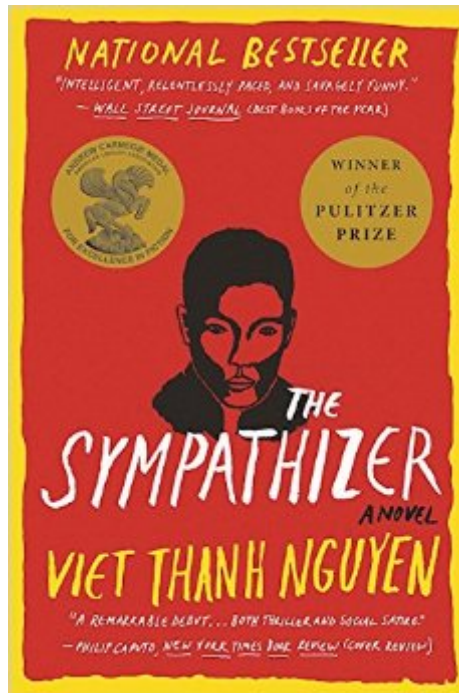


The book was found

# The Sympathizer: A Novel (Pulitzer Prize For Fiction)



## Synopsis

The winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, as well as five other awards, *The Sympathizer* is the breakthrough novel of the year. With the pace and suspense of a thriller and prose that has been compared to Graham Greene and Saul Bellow, *The Sympathizer* is a sweeping epic of love and betrayal. The narrator, a communist double agent, is a "man of two minds," a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who arranges to come to America after the Fall of Saigon, and while building a new life with other Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles is secretly reporting back to his communist superiors in Vietnam. *The Sympathizer* is a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel, and a powerful story of love and friendship.

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Grove Press; 1 edition (April 12, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802124941

ISBN-13: 978-0802124944

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (815 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #165 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Asian American](#) #9 in [Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Espionage](#) #48 in [Books > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The Sympathizer" was published exactly 40 years after the fall of Saigon to Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces and the effective end of the 10-year old conflict. The impact of that war is still felt, to some degree, in the U.S. On the other hand, when Americans visit Vietnam (northern or southern regions), they only rarely hear any mention of the war and they see a country dramatically transformed physically, in many ways. While the form of national government there is still officially communist, there is abundant proof that the economy is solidly capitalist. As long as 15 years ago, I asked a ranking member of an official delegation visiting Washington about this and his comment was that while the North had won the "civil war", the South had won the soul of the whole country--meaning that the Vietnamese have always been independent-minded, small land holders and capitalists at heart throughout a history of at least 2000 years. I mention all of the above to point

out the irony that is inherent in this novel. "The Sympathizer" is blind to the present as it chronicles the stories of several members of the South Vietnamese forces at the very end of the war (1975) into the early 1980s. The central character among them is the right hand man of a powerful general--the acting head of the national police in the waning days of the Saigon government--whose personal history puts him at odds with all daily reality. He was born a Northerner--therefore existentially suspect by all Southerners; he is half-French--therefore someone to be disdained by the instinctively atavistic and/or racist Vietnamese; he is a mole for the Viet Cong in the midst of the Saigon power structure; he is U.S.

"The Sympathizer" is a brilliant novel, but it fell flat for me. Its hero -- or anti-hero -- isn't quite convincing in his role(s). The novel is presented as the memoir of a young officer in the South Vietnamese army and secret police during the fall of Saigon to the North Vietnamese Communist army. He is a traitor, a secret Communist operative, who routinely sends all of the confidential information he receives to his boyhood buddy, a Communist intelligence officer also hidden within the South Vietnamese army. In addition to his emotional confusion -- posing as an anti-communist while actually helping the Communists -- the anti-hero is also biracial -- his father was a French Roman Catholic priest who seduced his teenage Vietnamese mother. He has grown up being insulted by many Vietnamese as a "bastard." Allegedly, his dual ethnic identity makes him a better spy -- treated with suspicion by all, he is the last to be suspected of any crimes -- it's just assumed that a 'bastard' will be grateful for his employment and loyal. His friendly, non-judgmental manner and willingness to listen have made him the "sympathizer." The book is well-written, with vivid evocations of the weather, culture, people and atmosphere of wartime Saigon, and the Vietnamese refugee groups in America and Asia after the war. This is the material of a gripping psychological thriller, but the author chose to write the book as a black comedy. The problem with the book is that even with the greater latitude given by the black comedy genre, the protagonist does not come across as a real Communist operative or as a 1970's Vietnamese.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Sympathizer: A Novel (Pulitzer Prize for Fiction) The Orphan Master's Son: A Novel (Pulitzer Prize for Fiction) The Sympathizer: A Novel The Sympathizer: A Guide for Book Clubs (The Reading Room Book Group Notes) Non Fiction Writing Templates: 44 Tips to Create Your Own Non Fiction Book (Writing Templates, Writing Non Fiction, Kindle Publishing) Fiction Writing Templates: 30 Tips to Create Your Own Fiction Book (Writing Templates, Fiction Writing, Kindle Publishing) The Science Fiction Hall of Fame, Volume Two B: The Greatest Science Fiction Novellas of All Time

Chosen by the Members of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SF Hall of Fame) Writing : Novel Writing Mastery, Proven And Simple Techniques To Outline-, Structure- And Write A Successful Novel ! - novel writing, writing fiction, writing skills - Nine Day Novel-Self-Editing: Self Editing For Fiction Writers: Write Better and Edit Faster (Writing Fiction Novels Book 2) Prize Volumes: Catalogue for Designer Bookbinders International Competition 2013 Journal of Ugly Sites and Other Journals (Ottoline Prize) The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader: Documents, Speeches, and Firsthand Accounts from the Black Freedom Struggle Cannibal (Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry) Phrasis (Ottoline Prize) Solarium (Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry) Claiming His Prize: Forceful Men (Forced Submission Book 1) Japan, the Ambiguous, and Myself: The Nobel Prize Speech and Other Lectures The Happiness Prize: Common Truths That Lead to an Uncommon Life (Wisdom Given Book Series 1) Alien Conquest: (The Warrior's Prize) An Alien SciFi Romance Barbarian's Prize: A SciFi Alien Romance (Ice Planet Barbarians Book 6)

[Dmca](#)