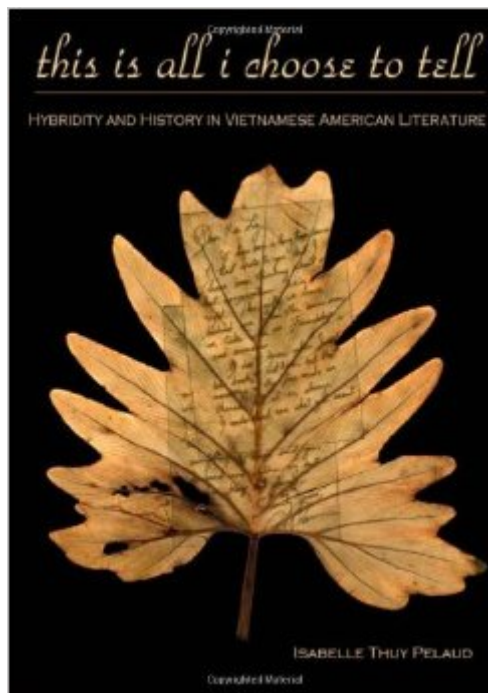


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# This Is All I Choose To Tell: History And Hybridity In Vietnamese American Literature (Asian American History & Cultu)



## Synopsis

In this book-length study of Vietnamese American literature, Isabelle Thuy Pelaud probes the complexities of Vietnamese American identity and politics. She provides an analytical introduction to the literature, showing how generational differences play out in genre and text.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a powerful and vital book. For anyone interested in Asian American studies, Vietnamese American studies, and literature, this definitely should be on your reading list and book shelf. Thank you and congrats to Professor Pelaud. This is a great contribution to the necessary national discourse on Vietnamese American literature.

Within the fields of Asian American studies, Vietnamese American studies, and Southeast Asian American Studies, Pelaud's book is a true contribution. Indeed, it's a first. Pelaud navigates the difficult terrain of diasporic Vietnamese literature, and does so in a manner that is accessible and compelling. For those interested in mapping where Vietnamese literature has been and where it is going, this is a "must."

As the first book on Vietnamese American literature, Pelaud's work is an important contribution to the field of Vietnamese American studies, Asian American Studies, and American studies. Her analyses of under-studied works by authors including Linh Dinh and Lan Cao are lucid and

accessible, and her combination of close readings, historical context, and critical reception is valuable. Anyone hoping to get an introduction to the field will benefit from reading this book. I have used it multiple times for teaching college-level surveys and seminars, and students have picked up on multiple provocative threads in the book to pursue their own research projects; Pelaud has carved out promising paths for future studies. A must-read for those seeking grounding in Asian American literature.

I used this book for my Vietnamese American Literature class and found it helpful not only for understanding Vietnamese American Literature, but for outlining the history behind the Fall of Saigon in 1975. I learned about the Vietnam War in history classes in high school, but it was only from the perspective of the U.S. so I never got all of the facts. "This is all I choose to tell" helped to fill in those gaps that history books failed to cover. "This is all I choose to tell" selects various works from Vietnamese American writers and breaks it down by themes such as identity, race, refugee experiences throughout the different waves of refugees, gender, and class. Of course, these are not the only conversations generated in the Vietnamese and Vietnamese American communities. Pelaud breaks down each work and reflects on each issue on a much deeper level by pairing it with her own perspective as well as from other scholars in her field.

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