



Dear Readers

I'm truly honored to have my book, *TWILIGHT TERRITORY*, selected for a July Big Library Read. My previous books—*CATFISH AND MANDALA* and *EAVES OF HEAVEN* have all been non-fiction. While *TWILIGHT TERRITORY* is my first novel, there is also a biographical component to it, since it was inspired by my maternal grandmother's experiences. At its heart *TWILIGHT TERRITORY* is a love story, but it's a love story set during wartime. When most of us think about the Vietnam War, we think about the American involvement in the war which ended with the fall of Saigon in May 1975. Lesser known are the stories of the Japanese occupation of Vietnam during World War II, and the struggles, afterwards, waged by the Viet Minh resistance to break free of French colonial rule. In *TWILIGHT TERRITORY*, those battles shape the lives of Tuyet and her lover, the Japanese major Yamazaki Takeshi, who resents the Japanese Empire for the pain and suffering it inflicted. A woman of fortitude and perseverance, Tuyet takes a step of daring toward the end of the novel as she comes to see herself not as a victim, but as one with the courage--and independence--to determine her own fate.

I'm thrilled that so many of you will now have the chance to read *TWILIGHT TERRITORY* through your local library.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew X. Pham

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