

The Porch Light I Leave On Illuminates the Lasting Human Cost of the Vietnam War

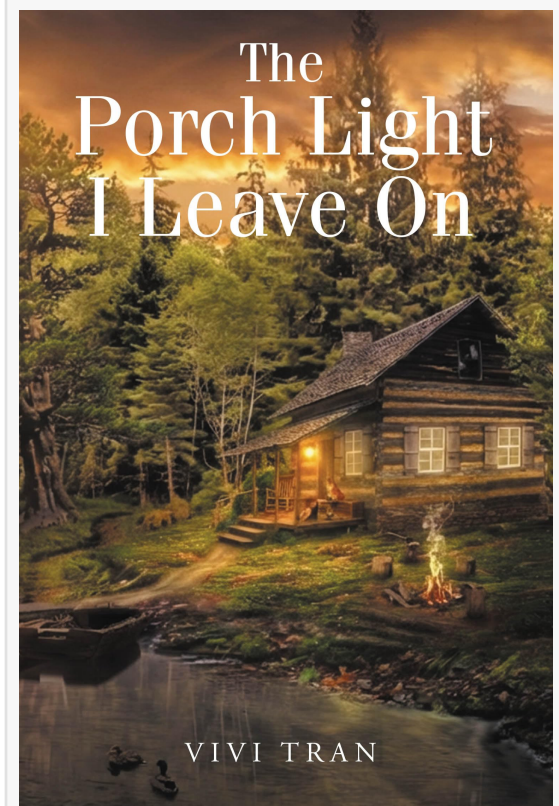
Vivi Tran explores love, sacrifice, and healing through a Vietnam veteran and refugee whose lives remain deeply connected to the legacy of war.

NEW YORK CITY, NY, UNITED STATES, August 25, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Author Vivi Tran explores the lasting human consequences of the Vietnam War in *The Porch Light I Leave On*, a poignant story of love, sacrifice, trauma, and healing.

The novel centers on Tim, a Vietnam veteran living with PTSD, whose family sponsors Kate, a young Vietnamese refugee. Their unexpected connection develops across rural Kansas and suburban California, bringing together two people whose lives have been shaped differently by the same conflict. Through their relationship, Tran examines what war leaves behind long after soldiers return home.

In *The Porch Light I Leave On*, Tim's experiences continue to affect his health, relationships, and hopes for the future. His PTSD and an illness related to Agent Orange exposure create painful obstacles as his relationship with Kate deepens. One especially meaningful moment comes when Tim decides to leave so Kate might have the opportunity for a better life, including the simple joy of dancing with someone without his shaking and trembling. His decision reflects the novel's larger exploration of love expressed through sacrifice, even when that sacrifice creates profound distance and silence.

Tran wrote *The Porch Light I Leave On* partly from a desire to help younger generations understand the Vietnam War beyond dates and historical accounts. She wants readers to recognize the sacrifices made by young servicemen, as well as the endurance required of their families and loved ones. The story also draws from Tran's past experiences with someone severely affected by the horrors of war, giving its emotional themes a personal foundation. Her perspective emphasizes that the consequences of conflict can continue within individuals and



The Porch Light I Leave On by Vivi Tran

families for years after combat ends.

Written for readers of all ages, *The Porch Light I Leave On* connects history with an intimate human story. Kate's experience as a Vietnamese refugee and Tim's struggle as a veteran create contrasting perspectives on displacement, trauma, belonging, and recovery. Tran does not portray healing as simple or immediate. Instead, the novel considers how compassion can emerge from circumstances marked by tremendous pain. Its central relationship invites readers to consider the endurance of love when illness, memory, separation, and unspoken suffering threaten to pull people apart.

Vivi Tran wrote *The Porch Light I Leave On* after *Where The Leaves Fall*, continuing Kate's story and exploring the circumstances surrounding her sponsorship by Tim's family, who initially knew little about the extent of his PTSD. Drawing from personal experience and a desire to preserve awareness of war's human cost, Tran creates a story in which wounded lives unexpectedly become sources of hope for one another. At its heart, the novel carries her conviction that healing can arise from even the most profound circumstances and that meaningful bonds can endure extraordinary hardship.

Readers can also watch the official book trailer for *The Porch Light I Leave On*, offering a brief, evocative glimpse into the novel's emotional world and the bond at its center.

You can view the trailer for the book here:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/LmE7atsYsP0?is=QE-YApxNa7OFOCfp>

The book is available at:

<https://a.co/d/098MDFhY>

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