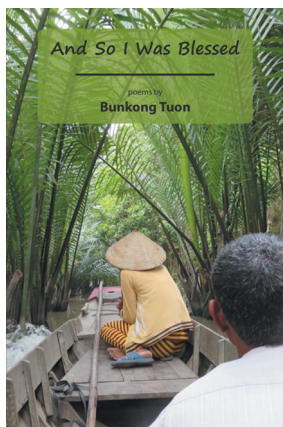


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NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *And So I Was Blessed* by Bungkong Tuon



October 9, 2017 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *And So I Was Blessed* by Bungkong Tuon. *And So I Was Blessed* weaves together three narrative strands: a tourist visiting Việt Nam, a son sojourning to his father's village in the Mekong Delta, and a professor leading his students on a term abroad, all for the first time. Running throughout this poetry collection is the refrain of the central character—the tourist, son, and professor—missing the daughter he left behind. This is a book about history and memory, tourism and education, arrival and departure, loss and alienation, longing and misrecognition, and above all, a father's love for his daughter.

"*And So I Was Blessed* combines songs of innocence with songs of experience, sometimes in the same poem. They take us on a journey with an Asian American speaker in search of a lost home, but along with discovering his Americanness abroad, we sense his depth of humanity no matter where he lands."

—Floyd Cheung, Professor of English, Smith College

"Bungkong Tuon writes with clarity, honesty, and depth of feeling about the Cambodian-American experience like no one else. The pain of prejudice and loss, the struggle with identity, the hope and joy that family past and present bring. This book is a blessing for all readers."

—Jim McCord, Emeritus Professor of English, Union College

"In Bungkong Tuon's second collection, *And So I Was Blessed*, we go with him as he visits his father's village. His grandmother, aunts, and uncles welcome him warmly, passing down family folklore with humor, and he learns all about the love his father had for him, the love he always missed. Gratefully, he accepts these gifts, these blessings, and brings them home to his wife, his newborn daughter, and to us, his most fortunate readers, to enrich our lives."

—Tony Gloegler, author of *Until the Last Light Leaves* and *The Last Lie*

Bungkong Tuon is a writer, critic, and associate professor of English at Union College, in Schenectady, NY. His criticism on Southeast Asian American literature has been published in *Comparative Literature Studies*, *MELUS*, *Mosaic*, *Children's Literature Quarterly*, among others. His poetry has appeared in *Paterson Literary Review*, *Chiron Review*, *Consequence*, *Poetry Quarterly*, *The Mekong Review*, *Numéro Cinq*, and others. He is a contributor to *Cultural Weekly*. *Gruel*, his first poetry collection, was published in 2015 (NYQ Books).

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



photo by Nicole M. Calandra