

## Linda L. T. Baer, Author

Linda Loan Thi Baer was born Nguyen Thi Loan in 1947, in the small village where she was raised, Tao Xa, Thai Binh Province, North Vietnam. Her father was killed during a Viet Minh attack on her village in 1951. Her mother was married again, to a wealthy practitioner of Chinese medicine. Their family relocated to South Vietnam during the mass exodus of 1954, and was forced to move constantly due to economic, political, and military conditions. They eventually settled near Vung Tau, south of Saigon.

Loan left home at an early age, to seek work at various menial jobs in Saigon, to help her family, and to escape the physical abuse of her stepfather. She met and married an American Air Force Officer in 1968, and accompanied him to the United States in 1971.

She became a naturalized American citizen in 1973, and while giving birth to and raising two sons and a daughter, obtained her High School GED and attended many college courses.

Linda graduated first in class from her School of Cosmetology and received her certification from the State of South Carolina. She is the owner/operator of the successful “Elegance by Linda B.” Beauty Salon in Charleston, SC.

She is the author of *Red Blood Yellow Skin* and other works in progress.

### Red Blood, Yellow Skin

*The night the Viet Minh attacked our village, they found my father hiding in the Church steeple. They shot him in the neck and pushed him through a window. He landed on a mound of broken glass. One attacker heard him moan and ran over to finish him off. With a machete, he chopped my father’s face into four pieces; the sign of the cross.*

*My father fell silent. I saw his bloody face soon after he died.*

*I was four.*

*The Viet Minh occupied our village and destroyed my peaceful existence.*

*Red Blood, Yellow Skin* is Baer’s story, a young girl’s survival in Vietnam.

It’s about romance, humor, culture, customs, traditions, and family life. It describes the pain, struggle, despair, and violence as she lived it. The story is hers, but it is also an account of Vietnam, not as seen by foreigners on televised images of war and tragedy, but by those who were uprooted, displaced, brutalized, and left homeless; it is about their struggle for survival.

Her Vietnam was frightening but tender; it was tragic but humorous; it was chaotic but beautiful; it was ultimately a contradiction. “It was my home; the home that I love and for which I have wept endless tears.”

