



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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**Author lê thi diem thúy will Read at Linda Vista Branch Library;
Grand Marshall at Linda Vista Multicultural Fair and Parade**
Novelist Returns to Neighborhood of Book "The Gangster We Are All Looking For"

SAN DIEGO – In a poignant return to Linda Vista, the neighborhood of her youth and the setting of significant parts of her novel, "The Gangster We Are All Looking For," acclaimed Vietnamese writer, lê thi diem thúy, will read from her work at the Linda Vista Branch of the San Diego Public Library located at 2160 Ulric St. in a free program starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 21. On Saturday, April 22, lê thi diem thúy caps her triumphal return when she presides as grand marshall of the Linda Vista Multicultural Fair and Parade.

lê thi diem thúy was born in Phan Thiet, southern Vietnam. She and her father left Vietnam in 1978, by boat, eventually settling in Southern California. lê is currently a Radcliffe Fellow and resides in Massachusetts.

Her publisher, Random House, describes the novel:

This acclaimed novel reveals the life of a Vietnamese family in America through the knowing eyes of a child finding her place and voice in a new country.

In 1978 six refugees—a girl, her father, and four "uncles"—are pulled from the sea to begin a new life in San Diego. In the child's imagination, the world is transmuted into an unearthly realm: she sees everything intensely, hears the distress calls of inanimate objects, and waits for her mother to join her. But life loses none of its strangeness when the family is reunited. As the girl grows, her matter-of-fact innocence eddies increasingly around opaque and ghostly traumas: the cataclysm that engulfed her homeland, the memory of a brother who drowned and, most inescapable, her father's hopeless rage.

The *New York Times* Book Review praises the work as, "A brilliant evocation of human sorrow and desire. . . . Heartbreaking and exhilarating. . . . As vivid as a fairy tale, as allusive as a poem."

For information about the program at the Linda Vista Branch Library, call 858-573-1399. For information about the Linda Vista Fair and Multicultural Parade, contact Sarah Granby at 858-560-0871

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