



# The Pearl of the Orient: A Novel

Bahram Ameli

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Set amid the ill-fated metropolis of Saigon during the year before its infamous fall in 1975, *The Pearl of the Orient* reveals the surprising splendor of Vietnamese culture as witnessed by an aloof Canadian diplomat, Xavier Richmont, who is struggling to overcome his own private tragedy.

But his growing attraction to a feisty Eurasian fashion designer, Tissa, sets Xavier on a collision course with his conservative political views when the US-backed regime uses despicable tactics in an effort to capture Tissa's brother, a known radical.

Xavier enlists the help of his old friend, a French journalist, and together the two search diligently for clues that will help Tissa find her missing family members. However, their inquiries inadvertently lead them to uncover a secret plot between the United States and the Soviet Union to let North Vietnam overtake Saigon, ending the war once and for all. If Graham Greene's *The Quiet American* alluded to the beginning of our involvement in Vietnam, *The Pearl of the Orient* shows us how we rid ourselves of it.

Inspired by appallingly true facts, author and former diplomat Bahram Ameli's political thriller sifts through the smokescreen of the 1970s to tell a stirring story that brings history and the human spirit to life in vibrant detail.



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