

Sniper Girl

(A short clip from my book *Nose of the South China Sea*.)

Nothing made Minh Thi Bian feel more alive than those silent moments just before she pulled the trigger. Inwardly her heart pounded, her head swam with excitement. She felt like she might fall out of her perch from shaking. But outwardly, she was calm, still and silent. Bian kept the American soldier's steel pot in her sights as the GI crept forward in quiet, cautious steps. Slowly, silently she filled her lungs with moist warm air. Then after letting half the air out, she held her breath. Steadily her finger applied pressure to the trigger until she felt her shoulder jerk back from the kick of her SKS sniper rifle.