Contents

Introduction xi
Wayne Karlin

A Friendship xvii

Iran Van Ihuy
I. War
1. The Swimmer 3
2. The Measuring Stick and the Mirror 10
3. Do You Feel Honored? 14
4. Going South 21
5. Rebirth 26
6. The Beauty and the Bullet 35
7. Carrying the War Home 47
8. An Uneasy Homecoming 56
9. Letters from the Fire 68
10. The Trans-Siberian Express 71

II. Peace

Preface 81

11. Hanoi in Whose Eyes

12. Untie the Bonds of Writers and Artists

13. The Story of Kindness 99
14. Kindness Repressed 106
15. Kindness Abroad 114
16. A Violin at Mỹ Lai 124

III. To the Ends of All the Seas

Preface 137
17. A Letter 140
18. A Birth 152

IV. The Labyrinth

Preface 163
19. An Unpleasant Occurrence 167
20. Immense Sorrow Is Forbidden 170
21. The Language of My Land 176

Epilogue

A Few Words to Thủy's Daughter 187
Final Words by Lê Thanh Dũng 190
A Note from the Translators 192

Awards Presented to Trần Văn Thủy for His Films 195

Acknowledgments 197

Notes 203

Index 211

Illustrations follow page 98