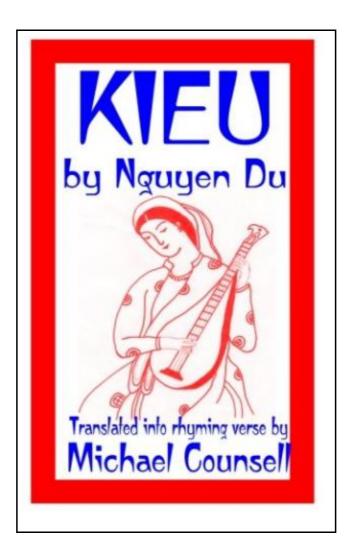
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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 202 x 126 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. It s always been the same: good fortune seldom came the way of those endowed, they say, with genius and a dainty face. What tragedies take place within each circling space of years! Rich in good looks appears to mean poor luck and tears of woe; which may sound strange, I know, but is not really so, I swear, since Heaven everywhere seems jealous of the fair of face. The tale of Kieu, a talented young girl, was written in verse in Vietnamese by Nguyen Du, who lived in Vietnam from 1765 to 1820. Although the story is set in China, it was the greatest work of literature until then to be written in the Vietnamese language, and many would say it is still unrivalled. It tells the story of Kieu, a beautiful girl, who falls in love with Kim, a handsome student, and they become engaged. But while Kim is away, Kieu s father is arrested on a false charge, and Kieu follows the Confucian teaching that duty to one s parents overrides all other duties, and gives herself to be sold as a bride to a stranger. Her life continues with terrible suffering alternating with periods of relative happiness, but always she dreams of Kim. But eventually they are reunited and there is a happy ending. Michael Counsell lived as a civilian in Vietnam for almost four years during the Vietnam War. He read the tale of Kieu, and was deeply moved by the human drama and the descriptions of nature. It seemed to symbolise the suffering which the Vietnamese people, and especially Vietnamese women, endured during the twentieth century. Among the many misunderstandings of the...

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