

Nancy K. Napier



Professor | National Bestselling Author | Inspiring Speaker





Meet Nancy

Xin Chào (sin chow) / Hello!

Distinguished Professor Emerita at Boise State University (USA) and former Adjunct Professor at Aalborg University (Denmark) and the National Economics University in Hanoi (Vietnam), N.K. Napier has taught strategy and creativity, coached executives, and led multiple Boise State Executive MBA residencies in Vietnam.

Napier co-created and hosted Idaho Business Matters on NPR's local affiliate (Boise State Public Radio), was a regular guest on KTVB Channel 7's Noon News, and wrote for Forbes Vietnam. She continues to blog for PsychologyToday.com. Her long-time work as a teacher, researcher, and writer has led to several awards, including a Medal of Honor and a Medal of Friendship in Vietnam.

After 35+ years in the academic and research world, N.K. Napier has embarked on something completely new: fiction writing, which offers her the joys and challenges of being a beginner again, with opportunities to do in-depth historical research and create fun new worlds and characters.



Nancy's Mission

To be a bridge across different fields, cultures, and people to find ideas that help organizations and people do things differently to get better.

N.K. Napier scours the world for ideas from Vietnam to Botswana to her own backyard of Boise, Idaho (USA). Many of those ideas have helped diverse organizations, from football to a jail, from software to theater, build leadership and creativity. In addition, she received two of Vietnam's top medals given to foreigners for contributions to education in Vietnam and for helping to build friendship between the U.S. and Vietnam.

Through luck, grit, and perseverance, N.K. Napier had the opportunity to help establish Vietnam's first international standard business school in Hanoi. What began as a one-year program to deliver her university's MBA degree became a nine-year-long, \$8.5 million project, funded by Sweden and the U.S. that was, essentially, a new venture start up. She learned, wrote, and met many fascinating people over the years.

As a child, my family "argued" for the sake of argument. You could take any position, but had to defend it, with logic and facts. Sometimes, in the midst of a discussion, one of my parents would switch sides and argue the opposite position. I learned that ideas become stronger when they are challenged, that brains become more nimble when they face competent opposition, and that it's possible to disagree and agree.

During these days of such division, within families and beyond, I yearn for a way to have discussions, even arguments, that build toward something better, stronger, more creative. I would wish for a movement that brings back learning how to argue as a sport, as a way to learn, and as a way to create a new direction and solutions to problems. Right now, discussion feels like a tennis match where a point goes back and forth but there is no gain on either side.

~ N.K. Napier

Why Interview Nancy?

Nancy is a professor, inspiring speaker and national bestselling author. As there are various topics with rich content that Nancy shares, she merges energy and enthusiasm to empower and embolden any audience. While Nancy routinely delivers custom content, her most popular topics include:

- Creativity in organizations;
- How working across disciplines can build your creativity;
- How to spur insight and bring on aha moments.

If you are interested in learning more about how Nancy would be an ideal fit and inspiration for your audience, please reach out to us today.

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW DISCUSSION TOPICS

- From Professor to Fiction Writer: The Art of Starting Over at Any Age—After 35+ years in the academic and research world, N.K. Napier is embarking on something completely new: Fiction Writing, which offers her the joys and challenges of being a beginner again.
- How Real-World Experience Shapes Authentic Storytelling—N.K. Napier scours the world for ideas from Vietnam to Botswana to her backyard, Boise, Idaho (USA).
- Art Crime and Family Secrets: Inside "The Art of Lies"—Her upcoming book explores what happens when an ambitious museum employee from Vietnam discovers art forgeries that threaten her family legacy and force her to choose between exposing the truth and protecting those she loves.
- When Legacy Meets Lies: Exploring Moral Dilemmas in Fiction, N.K. Napier delves into the complex themes of family reputation, national pride, and personal integrity through her protagonist Thuy, who must decide whether her family's artistic prestige is built on decades of deception.
- The Academic's Guide to Crafting Compelling Historical Fiction—Drawing from her 30 years of Hanoi experience and research background, N.K. Napier demonstrates how academic skills in strategy, creativity, and deep cultural understanding translate into authentic storytelling about contemporary Vietnam.

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- You are an author who goes beyond the book-writing world. You founded and carried out a daily local NPR radio "column" for seven years; you write for PsychologyToday.com and wrote a column for your local newspaper. How did you become an author, first of non-fiction books, then columns, and now fiction? What drove you to explore so many different writing formats?
- You have an interesting academic and research background as a Distinguished Professor (now Emerita) at Boise State University (USA) until you decided to face the joys and challenges of being a beginner again. What made you shift to fiction writing? Was there a specific moment or experience that sparked this transition?
- How did your books on creativity and innovation impact your new career as a fiction writer? Did your academic expertise in these areas give you insights into the creative process that helped with fiction writing?
- Is going back to the beginner stages of fiction writing an easy process after decades in academia? What skills transferred over, and what did you have to learn completely from scratch?
- Your first fiction book, "A Case of Too Many Deaths," was inspired by true crime. What drew you to that genre initially, and how did it prepare you for tackling different themes in your second novel?
- What was the process like writing your second novel, "The Art of Lies," especially when it came to weaving cultural details and fact-checking into the plot? How did your 30 years of experience in Vietnam help with the authenticity?
- The protagonist Thuy in "The Art of Lies" faces an impossible choice between exposing the truth about art forgeries and protecting her family's reputation. What drew you to explore this moral dilemma? How do you think readers will relate to her struggle between personal integrity and family loyalty?
- Where do you get inspiration from for your fiction? How do you scour the world for ideas from Vietnam to Botswana to your own backyard in Boise, Idaho?
- Both of your novels seem to deal with uncovering hidden truths - whether it's solving deaths or exposing art forgeries. What attracts you to these themes of investigation and revelation?
- Where can people learn more about you, your books, and follow your writing journey? What's next for you as a fiction writer?

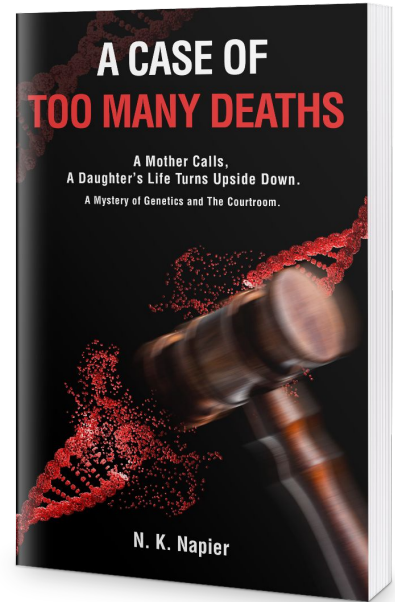
Nancy's Fiction Books



A CASE OF TOO MANY DEATHS

**A Mother Calls,
A Daughter's Life Turns Upside Down.
A Mystery of Genetics and The Courtroom.**

***What does Emma know about her family?
Not much, from the sounds of it.***



Rookie lawyer Emma Raddell's estranged her mother's calls begging her to help exonerate an aunt she never knew about who is now on death row. This mysterious aunt was convicted of murdering her four children twenty-four years earlier and is now weeks away from execution.

Emma must find a way to clear her aunt, battling the legal system in the process, as she tries for a mistrial or a new trial. She also must find a way to counter the original trial's strong testimony by an undisputed expert.

As the investigation progresses, with the help of a retired Scottish librarian and a world-renowned geneticist, Emma races to uncover how the four children died—if she is to believe her aunt's claim of innocence—and find a way to save her aunt from execution. In the process, Emma must navigate her tense relationship with her mother while learning secrets that could shatter her belief in herself and her family.

An interplay between courtroom drama and a medical investigation, *A Case of Too Many Deaths* is a gripping mystery that challenges readers to piece together clues in a sophisticated and thought-provoking narrative.

A CASE OF TOO MANY DEATHS

TITLE – A CASE OF TOO MANY DEATHS

SUBTITLE – A Mother Calls, A Daughter's Life Turns Upside Down.

A Mystery of Genetics and The Courtroom.

AUTHOR NAME – [Nancy K. Napier](https://www.nancyknapier.com)

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Available for purchase on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) globally. Retailers may purchase through Ingram globally.

AMAZON – [A Case of Too many Deaths](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C8J8J8J8)

WEBSITE – [NancyKNapier.com](https://www.nancyknapier.com)

FACEBOOK – [NKNapier](https://www.facebook.com/NKNapier)

INSTAGRAM – [NancyKNapier](https://www.instagram.com/NancyKNapier)

LINKEDIN – [NancyKNapier](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NancyKNapier)

GOODREADS – [Nancy_K_Napier](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/Nancy_K_Napier)

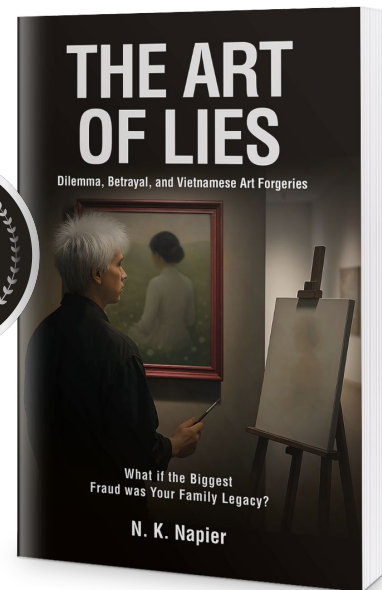
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THE ART OF LIES

**Dilemma, Betrayal, and
Vietnamese Art Forgeries.**

What if the Biggest Fraud was Your Family Legacy?



What happens when an ambitious museum employee from Vietnam discovers art crime that affects her family and country?

Thuy, a proud 39-year-old aspiring museum curator in Hanoi, Vietnam, loses a long-sought-after job but then gets the chance to mount a major visiting exhibit at her museum, which could boost her career. The exhibit will showcase paintings “returning home” to Vietnam. A collector in France has offered to loan Vietnamese artists’ paintings that have been outside the country for years. Several paintings are by her famous great-uncle, whose reputation has been critical for the family legacy for decades. But, right before the exhibit opens, she’s faced with the possibility that some of the paintings are fake. She must find out if they are, why they are, and who’s behind the scam.

Her father insists she tell no one, not even the museum’s director and curator. She fears that opening with forged paintings could ruin her reputation, along with the artists’, the museum, and the country. She approaches the collector, who claims he had no idea and insists she open the exhibit.

Backed into a corner, she must find out who’s behind the fake pieces in the exhibit before the opening, but in the process, she learns there are fakes in her museum’s permanent collection as well. The more she searches, the more she suspects someone inside the museum or, even worse, her father, is involved with the scheme.

Has her family been living a myth? Is her family really one of artistic prestige, or is the legacy her father has created just a lie? If this is a myth, how deep does the conspiracy run? And if her father is involved, does she turn him in, which will destroy the family and its legacy, or protect the integrity of her museum, the artists, and the country?

THE ART OF LIES

TITLE – THE ART OF LIES

SUBTITLE – Dilemma, Betrayal, and Vietnamese Art Forgeries.
What if the Biggest Fraud was Your Family Legacy?

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AMAZON – [THE ART OF LIES](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D9K1K1K1)

WEBSITE – [NancyKNapier.com](https://www.nancyknapier.com)

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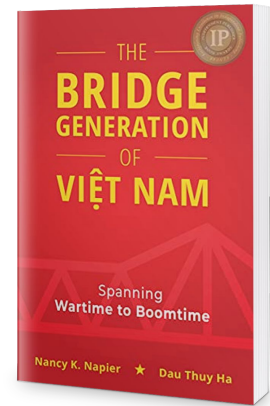


Nancy's Non-Fiction Books

Việt Nam Books

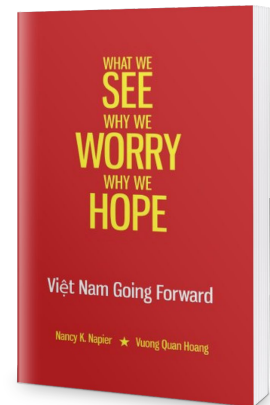
***The Bridge Generation of Việt Nam: Spanning Wartime to Boomtime.* Nancy K. Napier and Dau Thuy Ha (2020)**

The Bridge Generation was born in northern Việt Nam between the early 1950s until just before 1975. This group's lives spanned three critical time periods in Vietnam's recent history: from wartime, through a long period of food rationing, to the boom of a fast growing economy. Many are now among the top business, governmental, and educational leaders of the country.



***What We See, Why We Worry, Why We Hope: Vietnam Going Forward.* Nancy K. Napier and Vuong Quan Hoang (2013)**

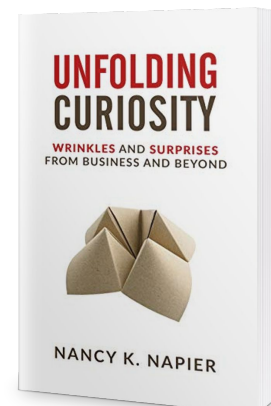
What we See, Why we Worry, Why we Hope: Việt Nam Going Forward explores key factors that affect Vietnam's ability to move forward as a global economic player. While we see challenges, we also see many reasons for hope, including a new generation of leaders.



Organizational Creativity & Innovation Books

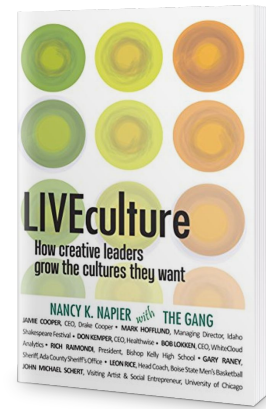
***Unfolding Curiosity: Wrinkles and Surprises from Business and Beyond.* Nancy K. Napier (2017)**

Unfolding Curiosity: Wrinkles and Surprises from Business and Beyond is a collection of quick reads that look at the "usual" with a slant. For relentlessly curious people, the idea that we can learn from fields far beyond their own disciplines is normal, to be expected.



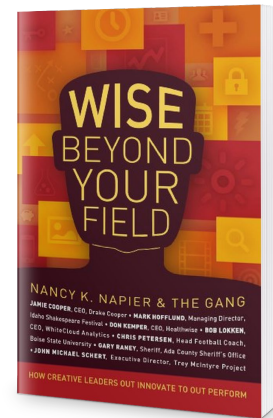
***LIVEculture: How Creative Leaders Grow The Cultures They Want.* Nancy K. Napier, Jamie Cooper, Mark Hofflund, Don Kemper, Bob Lokken, Rich Raimondi, Gary Raney, Leon Rice, and John Michael Schert (2015)**

Many leaders undervalue the power of culture as a competitive advantage. Don't make that mistake. In an easy to read, easy to understand format, *LIVEculture* offers tips from successful creative leaders on how they shaped, communicated, and grew the cultures they wanted for their organizations.



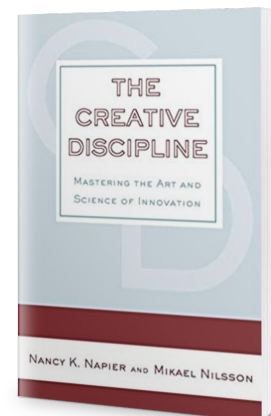
***Wise Beyond Your Field.* Nancy K. Napier, Jamie Cooper, Mark Hofflund, Don Kemper, Bob Lokken, Chris Petersen, Gary Raney, and John Michael Schert (2013)**

Do you want to boost your organization's performance? Outperform your peers? It may be as simple as looking outside your own field. *Wise Beyond Your Field* shows how creative leaders use ideas from far beyond their own fields to do things differently and outperform their peers.



***The Creative Discipline: Mastering The Art And Science Of Innovation.* Nancy K. Napier and Mikael Nilsson (2008)**

Why are some organizations more creative than others? What sets innovative, high-performing organizations apart? Can creativity and innovation be learned and enhanced? The answer to the last question, say creativity experts Nancy Napier and Mikael Nilsson, is a resounding yes.



***Insight: Encouraging Aha! Moments for Organizational Success.* Nancy K. Napier (2010)**

Insight: Encouraging Aha! Moments for Organizational Success helps individuals and organizations create the conditions that lay the groundwork for the distinct "Aha!" instances of insight—when connections between different pieces of information are revealed and ideas come together in ways that have never existed before.

