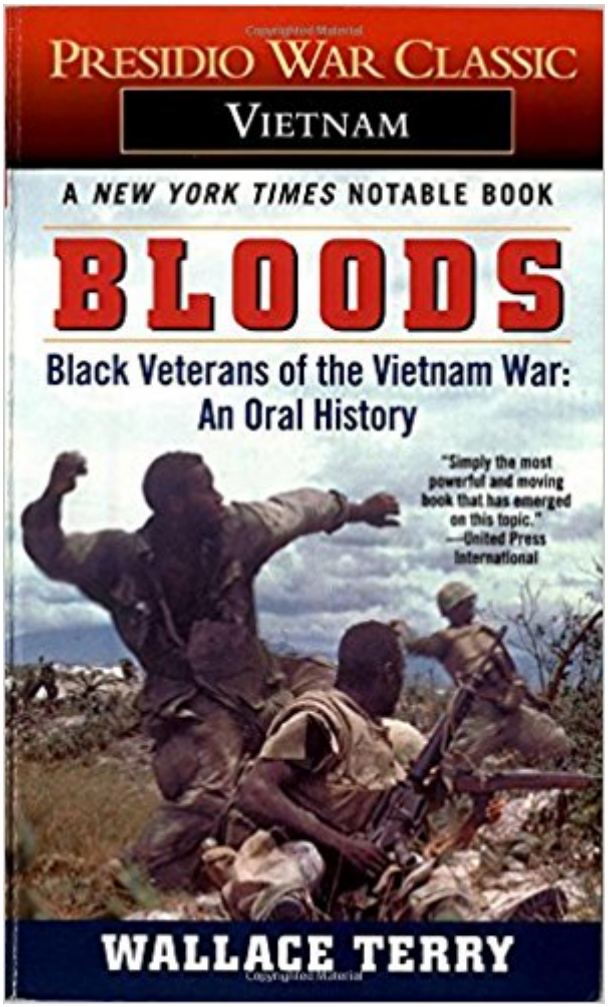
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Bloods: Black Veterans Of The Vietnam War: An Oral History



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Synopsis

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK Ã¢â ¬Â¢ The national bestseller that tells the truth about the Vietnam War from the black soldiersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ perspective. An oral history unlike any other, Bloods features twenty black men who tell the story of how members of their race were sent off to Vietnam in disproportionate numbers, and of the special test of patriotism they faced. Told in voices no reader will soon forget, Bloods is a must-read for anyone who wants to put the Vietnam experience in historical, cultural, and political perspective. Praise for Bloods Ã¢â ¬Å“Superb . . . a portrait not just of warfare and warriors but of beleaguered patriotism and pride. The violence recalled in Bloods is chilling. . . . On most of its pages hope prevails. Some of these men have witnessed the very worst that people can inflict on one another. . . . Their experience finally transcends race; their dramatic monologues bear witness to humanity.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Time Ã¢â ¬Å“[Wallace] TerryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s oral history captures the very essence of war, at both its best and worst. . . . [He] has done a great service for all Americans with Bloods. Future historians will find his case studies extremely useful, and they will be hard pressed to ignore the role of blacks, as too often has been the case in past wars.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Washington Post Book World Ã¢â ¬Å“Terry set out to write an oral history of American blacks who fought for their country in Vietnam, but he did better than that. He wrote a compelling portrait of Americans in combat, and used his words so that the readerÃ¢â ¬â •black or whiteÃ¢â ¬â •knows the soldiers as men and Americans, their race overshadowed by the larger humanity Terry conveys. . . . This is not light reading, but it is literature with the ring of truth that shows the reader worlds through the eyes of others. You canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t ask much more from a book than that.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Associated Press Ã¢â ¬Å“Bloods is a major contribution to the literature of this war. For the first time a book has detailed the inequities blacks faced at home and on the battlefield. Their war stories involve not only Vietnam, but Harlem, Watts, Washington D.C. and small-town America.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Atlanta Journal-Constitution Ã¢â ¬Å“I wish Bloods were longer, and I hope it makes the start of a comprehensive oral and analytic history of blacks in Vietnam. . . . They see their experiences as Americans, and as blacks who live in, but are sometimes at odds with, America. The results are sometimes stirring, sometimes appalling, but this three-tiered perspective heightens and shadows every tale.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Village Voice Ã¢â ¬Å“Terry was in Vietnam from 1967 through 1969. . . . In this book he has backtracked, Studs TerkelÃ¢â ¬â œlike, and found twenty black veterans of the Vietnam War and let them spill their guts. And they do; oh, how they do. The language is raw, naked, a brick through a window on a still night. At the height of tension a sweet story, a soft story, drops into view. The veterans talk about fighting two wars: Vietnam and racism.

They talk about fighting alongside the Ku Klux Klan.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •The Boston Globe

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Customer Reviews

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As a senior in high school I took a class on the History of the Vietnam War. BLOODS was not required reading for the class nor do I remember the teacher talking specifically about Black Veterans, but since I enjoyed the class I wanted to read some more firsthand accounts of what the

soldiers went through. I noticed BLOODS in the Vietnam section of the bookstore and on a whim I started reading it in the store and was really into it, so I bought it. BLOODS is the oral history of twenty black veterans of the Vietnam War, and the author is also a veteran. The stories in it are gripping and you can sense what a horrible experience war is, particularly for these minority soldiers who are fighting for an America that hasn't always been fair to them. This book gave me a perspective that I was glad to get.As a result of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," there has been a renewed interest in stories of our war veterans. BLOODS provides the kinds of insights into war and the military that only those who've experienced its horrors can convey. The additional (and key) component of race adds another dimension to this remarkable tale.

horrible writing, couldn't follow story lines.

This book was a great first person perspective of the experience of some African Americans during the Vietnam war. It was very sad at some points especially since some of their lives never recovered from their experiences in Vietnam.

Must read for all Blacks.

GREAT READ

Being a Vietnam veteran I can identify with some of the "Bloods" in the stories. I was drafted but enlisted before the induction date trying to avoid Vietnam. It did not work. I spend three years in the army, one of those years was in Vietnam. I was stationed in Chu Lai and avoided being directly in the bush.

The experiences of these African American Veterans, both pre- and post-war will make the reader feel a myriad of emotions. From sad, to horrified, to embarrassed to the occasional grin to outright inspired. They experienced rampant racism from superiors, equals and subordinates alike. The stories of when color barriers fell and soldiers took care of each other to their dying breath will draw more than a few tears.This book is difficult to describe - it's that amazing.

fantastic book. very revealing.

I couldn’t put this book down. This is a very powerful read. I recommend that this should be read by as many people as possible.

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