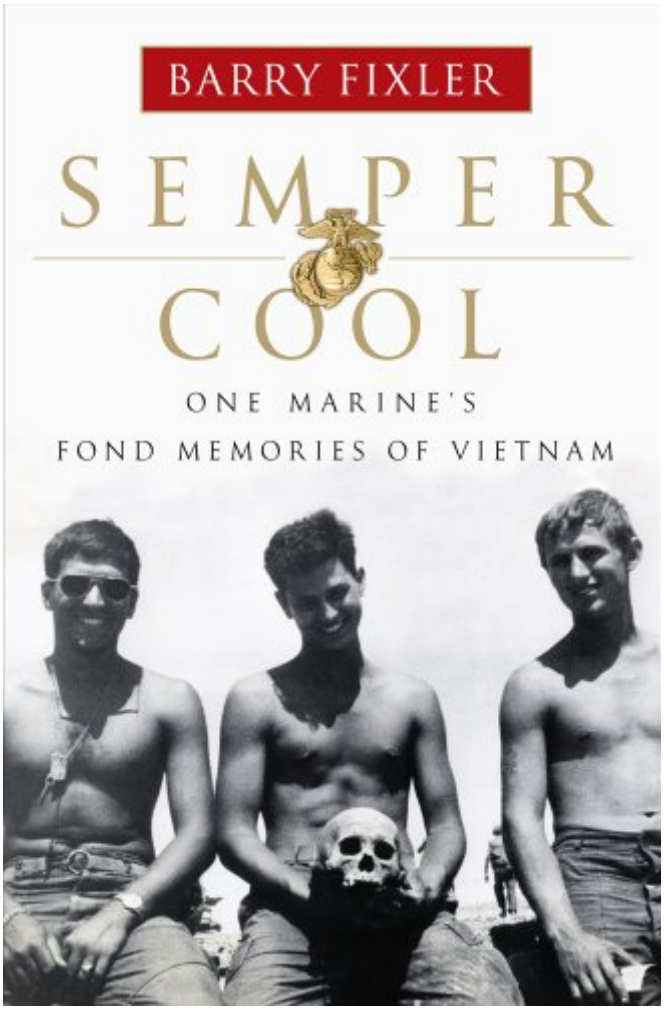
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Semper Cool: One Marine's Fond Memories Of Vietnam



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Synopsis

Semper Cool is the wrenching, sometimes hilarious and always thought-provoking true story of a mischievous teenager who enlists in the U.S. Marine Corps seeking adventure and his father’s approval and finds both, plus more danger than he ever could have imagined. With its vivid imagery, Semper Cool thrusts readers into a grunt’s-eye view of the blood, guts, tears and laughter of war, as told by a Marine who returned home a man and a patriot. Be prepared to laugh and cry and ultimately thank God for the men and women willing to risk their lives for the freedoms that so many Americans enjoy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one if the best memoirs I’ve ever read. One thing that is really important to me when I read a memoir is author authenticity. I don’t want to be lied to. I’ve read memoirs before that seem exaggerated, or even completely fabricated. I am very happy to say that "Semper Cool" does not fit into those categories!It is an incredible book, and I enjoyed it very much. It was also thought-provoking, in a good way. Most importantly, everything I read in it had a voice of 100% honesty. Now I can’t say if everything in this book is true. But I can say that this author has done an

awesome job when it comes to authenticity. Because things you read in this all strike the right chords when it comes to the history.This is a fantastic book and I highly recommend it! I've bought a hardcopy to give to father, who is also a Vietnam veteran. Two of his best friends were killed in Vietnam, and he was wounded and sent home after receiving his third Purple Heart. I know he is going to enjoy reading "Semper Cool" very much.

I enjoyed Barry Fixler's telling of his journey from being a High School youth in 1967 who enlists in the Marine Corp into a hardened combat veteran in Viet Nam. His writing of his own experiences as a Marine fighting in the battle of Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam, in 1968 is filled with the sounds of explosions, horror, killing and death all around him for over 70 days. Barry's Marines and other US military defended their base at Khe Sanh against overwhelming odds and he lived to tell about it. Other parts of his book are funny and tell of his days after Viet Nam and his growth as a former Marine who helps a disabled Vet and his family. Barry goes from being a carefree funny kid into a combat Marine who is himself now an example of the power of personal involvement in helping others. I admire what Barry is doing to help his fellow veterans.

I read a lot of Vietnam books and sadly this one was not what I had hoped for. It could have been so much better but lacked detail on most of the "combat" which just basically said "NVA shoots mortars, rockets artillery and Marines die." The jumping around was maddening between before and after his service.Khe Sanh was the highest point of the war along with Hue City for the Marine Corps and about the only way you know that is Barry talks about what a bad ass he was to survive unscathed. He wants the reader to accept that he's superman with little emotions but reluctantly admits the Russian Roulette game he allowed bothered him for 25 years yet seems bewildered when he finds out the victim survived but basically had become a living scar of his trauma.Yet Barry is more interested in forgiveness than admitting his true guilt. And let me say as a guy who was a Marine from 67-75 with time in Nam and 5 years as a Sgt I certainly wonder how he wasn't court-martialed and ended up in Portsmouth.You can't keep that kind of "accident" quiet in any outfit much less the grunts.Barry reminds of the little guy PITA in high school always trying to prove his manhood.Real men don't have to talk about their sexual conquests in a book for everyone to see including his wife,kid, family, friends etc.It's a given young men chase poon, you just don't have to brag about it.My hat is off to him though for helping the Marine and other servicemen.That is awesome.But,I have a serious problem with him not believing in PTSD.Having it doesn't make one a wuss.People handle trauma differently and I will take all the experts word on the matter before I'd

spend much time listening to someone in denial.

The first half of this book is almost a bellyaching laugh a page describing Marine Boot camp. Once in Nam however, there are no laughs, only the ache you feel for what our young men fought through; the ache for the loss of lives; the terrible mutilation of our wounded. Only once during the 77 day siege our Marines endured fighting to hold a mountain at Khe Sanh perhaps you will laugh as they share a letter from a MarinesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ girlfriend that freaked out all of the guys. I not only laughed aloud as I read that but I did it again the next day when I recalled it. She could not have pleased those homesick war-weary warriors any better than she did.Ex-combat Marine, Barry Fixler, wrote this book to honor his father who was a Marine in World War II, as well as his comrades in arms who fought and died beside him. This is one of the best books ever written to come out of that conflict. Mainly because the author wrote it the way it was and pulls no punches. All proceeds of this book go to a severely wounded Marine. Another worthy example of the MarinesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ Semper Fi credo that all Marines live by. I highly recommend this book for all readers.

A literate Marine. A thoughtful Marine. A witty Marine. A funny Marine. An honest Marine. Survivor of the battle of Khe Sanh. And proud combat Veteran.Probably the best Vietnam war memoir I've read (ranks up there with Medic!: The Story of a Conscientious Objector in the Vietnam War by Ben Sherman). I use the term 'Odyssey', which is fitting and appropriate as you follow Fixer through his stunning battles in Vietnam to his battles at home. Not everyone returns home as he did, and he relates the stories of those who cannot speak for themselves.Fixler closes the book by explaining how YOU can help your local veterans returning from war, by visiting The Barry Fixler Foundation at [...]I'm going to do something here I've never done before in an review, and urge you to buy the NEW book, not a used copy. Fixler is donating his profits for every new book sold to helping veterans. So make him and happy, and buy this new and maybe another copy or two for children and grandkids who might be coming of age and need to know what went before them.

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