



Cherries : A Vietnam War Novel

By John Podlaski

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In 1970, John Kowalski is one of many young, naive teenage soldiers sent to Vietnam to fight in an unpopular war. Dubbed "Cherries" by their more seasoned peers, these newbies suddenly found themselves thrust into the middle of a terrible nightmare - literally forced to become men overnight. On-the-job-training is intense, however, most of these teenagers were hardly ready to absorb the harsh mental, emotional, and physical stress of war. When coming under enemy fire for the first time and witnessing death first-hand, a life changing transition begins...one that can't be reversed.

The author is an excellent story teller, readers testify that they are right there with the characters, joining them in their quest for survival, sharing the fear, awe, drama and sorrow, witnessing bravery and sometimes, even laughing at their humor. It's a story that is hard to put down.

When soldiers return home from war, all are different - changed for life. "Cherries" tells it like it is and when finished, readers will better understand what these young men have to endure, and why change is imminent. All of these veterans should be embraced, welcomed home and thanked for their service. Vietnam vets and anyone who has been a young soldier in any war will appreciate the sentiments here.

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Cherries : A Vietnam War Novel By John Podlaski Bibliography

- Rank: #571788 in Books
- Brand: Brand: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
- Published on: 2010-04-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.03" w x 6.00" l, 1.23 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 456 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Cherries weds a matchless sense of dramatics with the ability to tell a marvelous story. You have staged excellent, realistic action with convincing effect. Cherries has a compelling magnetic quality. --Manuscripts International

As an avid reader of many historical memoirs, both fiction and autobiographical, rarely have I found one as in depth and revealing as Mr. Podlaski's work.

--Bernie Weisz, Vietnam War Historian

One 'read' will not be enough. You will want to pass through the pages of "Cherries" more than once just to savor the up close and personal story again.

--Jerry Kunnath, author

John Podlaski has created a moving narrative that carries conviction in its sincerity and point of view. It is recommended for its high-voltage narrative style, contemporary interest, and human drama."

--Carlton Press, Inc, 1985

"Intense, provocative, mesmerizing, emotional, heartfelt--John takes you with him to Vietnam. You feel the fear, the awe, the drama, the bravery, the sorrow, and sometimes even the humor of young men in battle." -- Jerome Kunnath, Author

"This author has come closer than 99% of other attempts by rival authors to duplicate the vicarious experience of what it was like to be an "FNG" during America's participation in the Vietnam War!"

-- Bernie Weisz. Vietnam War Historian

From the Author

"Cherries" is getting excellent reviews on both Amazon and my personal blog. I'm hearing from spouses and children of Veterans who have read my book out of curiosity because their father/husband will not talk about his war experiences. They are using it as a conduit to help open doors, locked for decades. As a result, veterans are beginning to share memories - both good and bad - with family members, and thanking me for "putting into words a story that they've been unable to tell until now". Career soldiers and veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are responding that they can relate to those experiences within "Cherries", saying that it's a different time, different country, different war, but not much has changed over the years.

About the Author

John Podlaski served in Vietnam during 1970 and 1971 as an infantryman with both the Wolfhounds of the 25th Division and the 501st Infantry Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, two Air Medals, and a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He has spent the years since Vietnam working in various management positions within the automotive industry, and he recently received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. John is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 and lives with his wife, Janice, in Sterling Heights, Michigan. This is his first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stanley Torres:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled Cherries : A Vietnam War Novel. Try to the actual book Cherries : A Vietnam War Novel as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you truly feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let us make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Donna Hubbard:

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Debra Capone:

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Ralph Pettie:

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