

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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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:

Evelyn Spencer:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the name Cherries: A Vietnam War Novel suitable to you? Typically the book was written by famous writer in this era. The actual book untitled Cherries: A Vietnam War Novelis the main one of several books that everyone read now. This particular book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know just before. The author explained their concept in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to understand the core of this book. This book will give you a lot of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world on this book.

Lyman Johnson:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Cherries: A Vietnam War Novel it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can moore very easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

Jean McCallum:

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James Voyles:

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