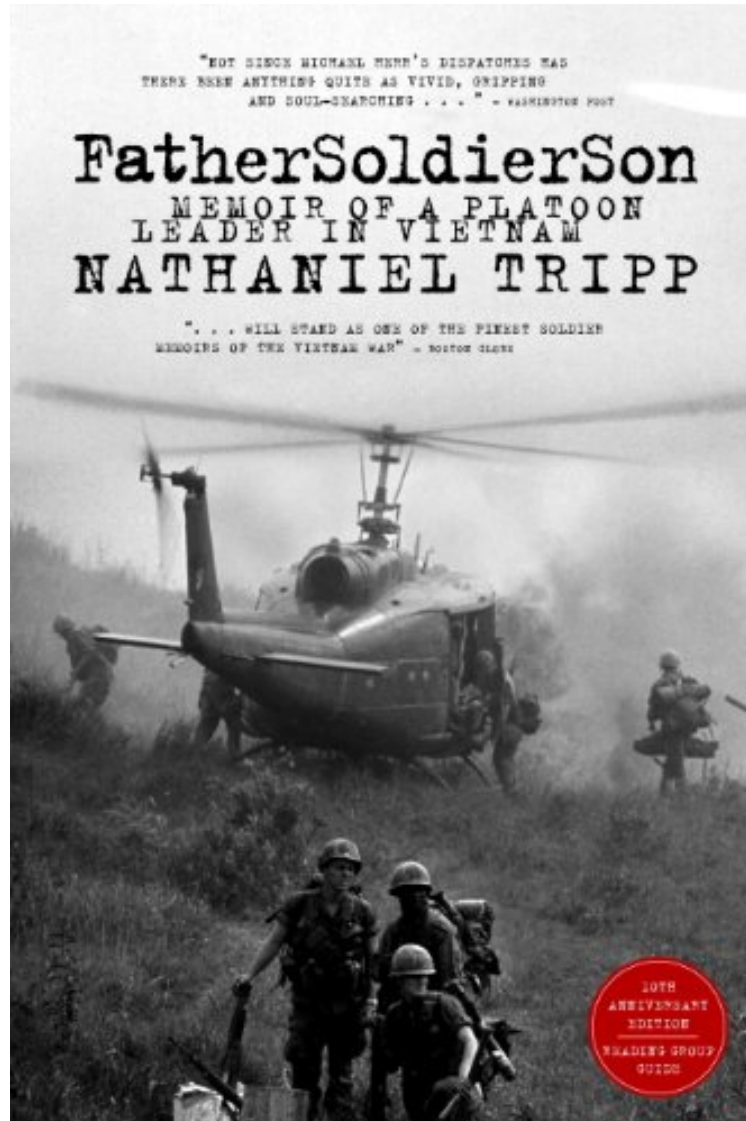


[Download ebook] Father, Soldier, Son: Memoir of a Platoon Leader In Vietnam

Father, Soldier, Son: Memoir of a Platoon Leader In Vietnam

Von Nathaniel Tripp

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Von Nathaniel Tripp : Father, Soldier, Son: Memoir of a Platoon Leader In Vietnam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Father, Soldier, Son: Memoir of a Platoon Leader In Vietnam:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Refreshingly Honest MemoirVon Terry HassettNathaniel Tripp does an excellent job in describing his raw feelings with a style of writing that tends to captivate and draw you in to the story on both an emotional and intellectual level.

He is refreshingly candid in sharing his fears, apprehensions, loneliness and insecurities; feelings which most of us experience from time to time or at least can relate to. At first he doesn't want to get close to his platoon but he's gradually seduced into a family like bond - Father, Soldier, Son. Although he was with his platoon for only six or so months, the emotional ties that developed formed such a strong, lasting and profound bond. We saw many times in later years that his platoon became an emotional retreat where he yearned for the comfort and closeness he remembered to help him cope with life's "bumps in the road". Tripp's book brought back many memories for me; both good and bad. Like Tripp, I was with the First Infantry Division around the very same time-frame (I was with Alpha Co., 2nd Bn., 16th Inf.) Our platoon (Mike) operated in some of the same locations as Tripp's. Some of the experiences he talked about are experiences I could relate to and the names of the villages, rubber plantations etc. are all familiar to me. All this and Tripp's superb writing style made his book particularly special for me. I was surprised to see a soldier on the cover (paperback edition) wearing a First Cavalry Division patch - I would have liked to have seen a soldier wearing a "Big Red One" patch.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Much more than just gripping battle descriptions. Von Ein Kunde Like true-crime literature, this book proved to be a disturbingly-satisfying and valuable learning experience. However, this opinion may not be shared by many if they forget that this is a memoir, not a novel. Don't be misled by the title and the blurbs, expecting just a neatly chronological action account of a soldier's year of survival in Vietnam and his relationship with his father before and after his tour of duty. It's far more than that. Soon after starting, you will realize that there are many more dimensions to this work than anticipated. The allusions to "father" and "son" prove to be metaphors not only for the author's personal relationships (within and outside the Army), but also that of War, The Military Establishment in general, and Government: "Vietnam was, more than anything else, a place of betrayal. Vietnam was where fathers betrayed sons, and sons betrayed fathers." And rarely in the past have we been treated so incisively and credibly to the real attitudes pervading our fighting forces in Vietnam: "I hated Saigon, the bile rising inside of me. It was noisy and filthy, overflowing with REMFS and hucksters of all sorts. The population had increased tenfold because of the war, and the very foundations of the city were exploitation of one sort or another, East meeting West at its very worst. The air was heavy with exhaust fumes and the constant hustle of survival, the great open market of Mammon beside heartbreaking slums. Everything was for sale: drugs, weapons, people, principles, the past, the future. We brought Walmart to Saigon, with blow jobs and televisions offered side by side, while beggars with their legs blown off, with puffy napalm scars and white, unseeing eyes, fought for scraps." The book is replete with poignant enlightening anecdotes such as the following documentation of the Vietnamese population's attitude towards Our War: "We soon came abreast of the cause of the delay. A young man on a motorcycle had been struck and killed. He lay there in the road in the kind of impossible position that only the dead can assume, and what was causing the delay was not so much his death as the subsequent pillaging. A crowd had gathered and was stripping his corpse of everything, watch, ballpoint pens, shirt, while others stripped his mashed motorcycle. Tu was silent for a long time after we passed, and continued on down the long, straight, open highway into the delta. Then at last he said, 'So now you see what your war has done to my country.'" The relationship between the Americans and the French in Vietnam may be a revelation to many of us. This is the way history should be taught: "We had, after all, grown up amid the glorifying mythology of the Second World War, and had naively expected the French to welcome us again, showering us with champagne and kisses from beautiful girls as we marched toward Loc Ninh, driving the evil communists before us. It had been disillusioning to find that the French in Vietnam disliked us more than they seemed to dislike the Viet Cong themselves. We could not understand that the French had been goaded, cajoled, even bribed into going to war in Vietnam by the United States in the first place." In addition to its historical reporting, perceptions and philosophies, this book is also notable for its exceptional style of presentation. Although the almost-poetic prose sometimes seemed affected, and occasionally a bit incongruous with the context, for the most part the rhetoric was another unanticipated windfall. Nathaniel Tripp has produced an important and memorable record of what it really was like and what it all meant. In the next edition a glossary, especially of the military terms and abbreviations, and at least one map of the locale would be desirable.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Captivating Memoir Von D.Caraccilo Nathaniel Tripp describes the wreckage of an American helicopter on Bad Vibes Hill in the opening chapters of *Father, Soldier, Son: Memoir of a Platoon Leader in Vietnam* in the following manner. "It was all here: the sacrifice, the grief, the ugliness, the war." This is the best way to characterize Tripp's memoir, full of metaphorical depictions of life in Vietnam as viewed through the eyes of a father and at the same through the eyes of a son without a father. As Noel Perrin aptly put as a blurb on the backcover of this book "... just when you think everything has been said about Vietnam, a book comes along [like Tripp's] that cuts about two levels deeper than anyone has before." *Father, Soldier, Son* is indeed that book. Tripp had lost his father to the tragedies of World War II, however his dad hadn't died in the war, rather the war had affected him so badly that he abandoned his family upon returning to the states. Tripp skillfully interweaves how he came to terms with his failed father and their failed relationship by becoming a father figure for the platoon of men he commanded during his tenure in Vietnam. Unlike his father who was a sailor, Tripp had a love for flying but ended up at the age of 23 as a "ground-pounder" leading his men against an enemy in places like Quan Loi and An Loc. While *Father, Soldier, Son* offers the reader the "whole panorama of war in Vietnam" what is striking about this book is that

Tripp uses his experiences in the war as a backdrop to convey his life long struggle at dealing with the estranged relationship he had with his father. Chapter after chapter Tripp offers possibly the best memoir written about a unit in the "Big Red One" and at the same time wanders deeper into man's inner thoughts and presents Father, Soldier, Son not as a mere memoir but as a work of literature.

Kurzbeschreibung "Father, Soldier, Son will stand as one of the finest soldier memoirs of the Vietnam War . . . If all that has been written about the war in Vietnam, in fiction and nonfiction, has made it a familiar story to some, Tripp overcomes cliché by individualizing every well-known fact." -- The Boston Globe NATHANIEL TRIPP GREW UP fatherless in a house full of women and he arrived in Vietnam as a just-promoted second lieutenant in the summer of 1968 with no memory of a man's example to guide and sustain him. The father missing from Tripp's life had gone off to war as well, in the Navy in World War II, but the terrors were too much for him, he disgraced himself, and after the war ended he could not bring himself to return to his wife and young son. In "some of the best prose this side of Tim O'Brien or Tobias Wolff" (Military History Quarterly), Tripp tells of how he learned as a platoon leader to become something of a father to the men in his care, how he came to understand the strange trajectory of his own mentally unbalanced father's life, and how the lessons he learned under fire helped him in the raising of his own sons. "Not since Michael Herr's Dispatches has there been anything quite as vivid, gripping and soul-searing," raved the Washington Post, and the Chicago Tribune said "the description of combat in the jungles of Vietnam are authentic and terrifying, as good as any I have read in fact or fiction." A beautifully written book and a stunning achievement. Thanks to Nathaniel Tripp's extraordinary depiction of war in Vietnam, based on his own experiences, I finally understand what it was like to fight there. Here is the savagery, the terrible anxiety, the sheer unreality of the conflict, and above all the appalling innocence and unpreparedness of the young Americans who were sent into that incomprehensible war. Skillfully interwoven with the war story is how the author comes to terms with his own terror, with his failed father and their failed relationship, and how he makes up for the lost love of a parent by becoming something like a father to the men in his platoon. I can't recommend Father, Soldier, Son highly enough. Richard M. Ketchum A beautifully written book and a stunning achievement. Thanks to Nathaniel Tripp's extraordinary depiction of war in Vietnam, based on his own experiences, I finally understand what it was like to fight there. Here is the savagery, the terrible anxiety, the sheer unreality of the conflict, and above all the appalling innocence and unpreparedness of the young Americans who were sent into that incomprehensible war. Skillfully interwoven with the war story is how the author comes to terms with his own terror, with his failed father and their failed relationship, and how he makes up for the lost love of a parent by becoming something like a father to the men in his platoon. I can't recommend Father, Soldier, Son highly enough.