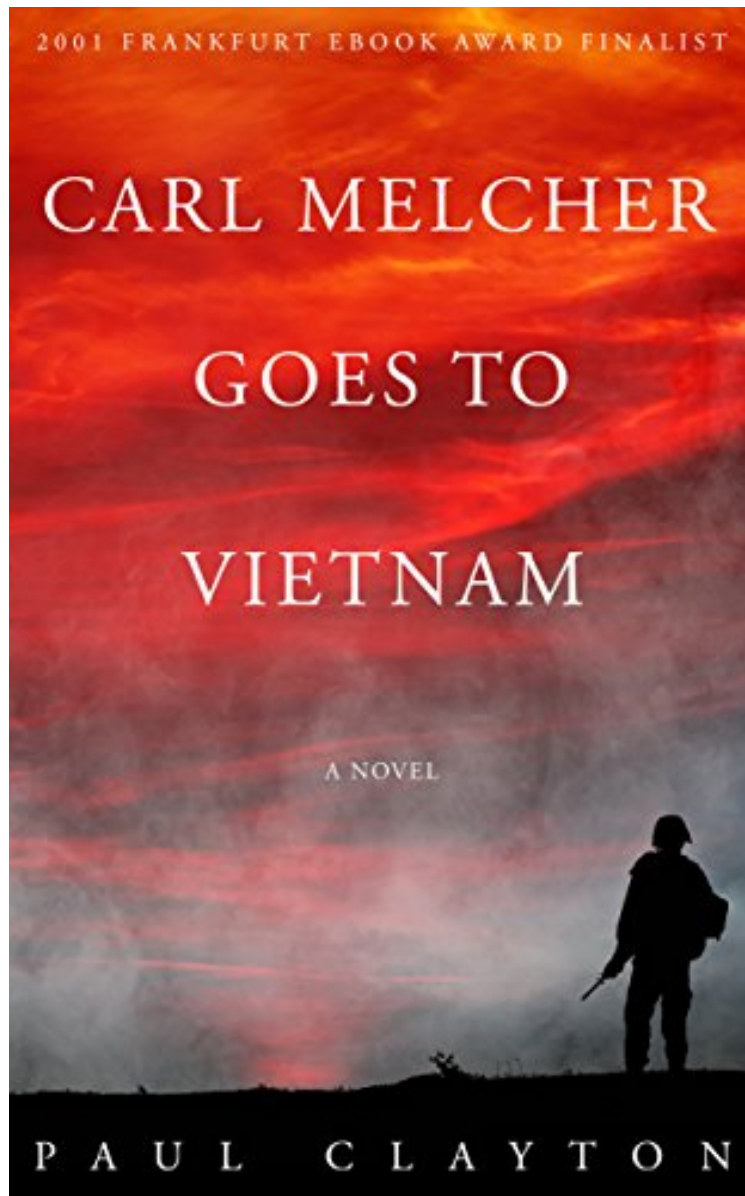


(Read free ebook) Carl Melcher Goes to Vietnam (English Edition)

Carl Melcher Goes to Vietnam (English Edition)

Von Paul Clayton

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Von Paul Clayton : Carl Melcher Goes to Vietnam (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carl Melcher Goes to Vietnam (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Rewarding, Coming-of-Age Novel about a GI in VietnamVon Donald MitchellAlmost everyone grows up, leaves home and begins to encounter the real world. For those who are lucky, this encounter occurs in the quiet precincts of a

college campus or a job where a friend or relative is never far away. In 1968, when this novel is cast, that growing up occurred for many young American men in Vietnam. Carl Melcher is an 18-year-old draftee who finds himself in the infantry because the war isn't going well for the United States and its South Vietnamese allies. He views the whole experience through rose-colored glasses, feeling that the accumulated karma of having led a good life will see him through. That world view is challenged by experiences in which the best efforts of mere mortals seem to be inadequate to offset a strongly ironic fate for the soldiers. For every action, there seems to be an equally strong and nearly immediate reaction in an unintended direction. The plot is nicely built to both capture the perspectives of a young and naive soldier and to challenge his philosophy. One of my cousins served in the Marines a little before this time, and his recollections of his time there tally very well with the story and perspectives in this book. As a result, I found that the semi-autobiographical story rang true in a way that many war novels do not. If you are looking for a book that glorifies war, heroism, or the American cause, look elsewhere. This is one of those quiet books that is more of an anti-war book, although that does not seem to be its overt purpose. I was reminded of the better parts of *All Quiet on the Western Front* as I read the book. The book's only significant weakness is that the story occasionally leaves you wondering what happened . . . and grasping for an answer. If you read on, the answer usually comes within four pages. The purpose seems to be to express the genuine confusion that often accompanies combat. As a narrative device, it didn't quite work as well as it might have. Why should you want to read this book? I was reluctant at first, but the book received recognition as a 2001 Frankfurt E-Book Award finalist. That attracted my attention, and I felt well rewarded by the story. This book will be especially valuable to those who have relatives who have served in combat, have been harmed by the experience and don't want to talk about what they faced.

Kurzbeschreibung 2001 Frankfurt eBook Award Finalist: The year is 1968. Like thousands of other American boys, Carl Melcher is drafted and sent to Vietnam. His new company is infected with the same racial tensions plaguing the nation. Despite that, Carl makes friends on both sides of the color line. The war, like a tiger lurking in the bushes, picks off its victims one by one. Naively over-optimistic, Carl believes that karma and good intentions will save him and his friends. Then fate intervenes to teach Carl something of the meaning of life, and death. *Carl Melcher Goes to Vietnam* was a finalist at the 2001 Frankfurt eBook Awards, along with works by Joyce Carol Oates and David McCullough. Recommended by: Library Journal: In this fictional account of the Vietnam War, Clayton shuns drama and political issues, detailing instead the minutiae of one soldier's experience. The simple language reflects the identity of an uncertain youth drawn involuntarily into a new and unfamiliar world. This novel does reveal Clayton, himself drafted in 1968, to be a reflective and strategic writer. "Pressestimmen" Echoes of Joseph Heller's "CATCH-22", written about an earlier war, are seen in the surrealism of the scene, which Carl himself describes as a comic book cutout, a brutal illumination of his childhood games." - KnowBetter.com "Drawn from the author's own experience as an Army soldier in Vietnam, Clayton deftly portrays an innocent abroad in the development of his protagonist, the likable but naive Carl Melcher." - "BookPage" Kurzbeschreibung 2001 Frankfurt eBook Award Finalist: The year is 1968. Like thousands of other American boys, Carl Melcher is drafted and sent to Vietnam. His new company is infected with the same racial tensions plaguing the nation. Despite that, Carl makes friends on both sides of the color line. The war, like a tiger lurking in the bushes, picks off its victims one by one. Naively over-optimistic, Carl believes that karma and good intentions will save him and his friends. Then fate intervenes to teach Carl something of the meaning of life, and death. *Carl Melcher Goes to Vietnam* was a finalist at the 2001 Frankfurt eBook Awards, along with works by Joyce Carol Oates and David McCullough. Recommended by: Library Journal: In this fictional account of the Vietnam War, Clayton shuns drama and political issues, detailing instead the minutiae of one soldier's experience. The simple language reflects the identity of an uncertain youth drawn involuntarily into a new and unfamiliar world. This novel does reveal Clayton, himself drafted in 1968, to be a reflective and strategic writer."