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In the Lake of the Woods

Von Tim O'Brien

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Von Tim O'Brien : In the Lake of the Woods before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Lake of the Woods:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Geheimnisse und LgenVon Robert Bolten... werden dem 41jhrigen John Wade, der fr einen U.S.-Senatsposten kandidiert zum Verhngnis. Seine Beteiligung an den Grueltaten in Vietnam kommt ans Tageslicht und besiegelt seine Niederlage. Frustriert zieht er sich mit seiner Frau Kathy in ein abgelegenes Ferienhaus zurck und das Unglck nimmt

seinen Lauf. O'Brien präsentiert uns weniger einen Thriller als vielmehr die Psychologie eines Mannes der es immer schon verstand eine geheimnisvolle Aura um sich zu kreieren. Wie ein Puzzle fügen sich nach und nach Erzählungen, Spekulationen und Beweise zu einem kompletten Werk zusammen und man erhält einen immer tieferen Einblick in die Seele des Protagonisten wenn auch viele Variablen ungeklärt bleiben...0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An analysis of John Wade Von Ein Kunde War, elections, family relationships, and a desire to be perfect all affected John Wade's life. The main character of *In The Lake of the Woods* by, Tim O'Brien, wanted to appear perfectly content to the public, therefore, he had to cover up some aspects of his past by burying them deep down inside. Experiencing a major war, being ridiculed, and watching a father kill himself are not situations that can be easily forgotten and ignored. John Wade's life did not work out the way he wanted it to, because he was trying to live a lie. John Wade's past affected his career tremendously, as it affects any politician's life. "Lieutenant governor at thirty-seven. Candidate for the United States Senate at forty. Loser by landslide at forty-one," (5). Wade was not perfect, because he could not cover up all the mistakes he has made. John Wade was overconfident, and far from perfect. This is a deadly combination in the political world. The Magician believed that he was untouchable, and had the whole country fooled, but in reality, John Wade had no chance of becoming a United States Senator. Some people still believed that John Wade was a good, trust worthy individual. Wade could still fool some people. One of these people was his neighbor, Ruth Rasmussen. She was quoted as saying: "For some reason Mr. Wade threw away that old iron teakettle. I fished it out of the trash myself. I mean it was a perfectly good teakettle," (30). Ruth was in possession of the weapon that killed Kathy Wade, and never even suspected it. Kathy had been missing for months, and never once did she think that John Wade had anything to do with her disappearance. Wade had convinced himself that he was not responsible for the death of his wife, by changing his own memories. This made it easy for Wade to convince others of the same. John Wade used more than emotional tactics to cover up his misconduct. He first did this to cover up some of the brutal things that he did during the Vietnam War. He went to the files and dug out a thick folder of morning reports for Charlie Company. Over the next two hours he made the necessary changes, mostly retyping, some scissors work, removing his name from each document and carefully tidying up the numbers. In a way it helped ease the guilt. (269). This selection shows that Wade could convince himself of his own innocence, and convince others through illegal activities and lies. John Wade had a very small conscience, which was easily ignored and forgotten. Wade would stop at nothing to make himself appear to be an All-American kind of guy. The ability to change his own memories was a frightful characteristic that John Wade had. He made himself believe that he was a good person, and that he was in no way responsible for the death of his wife. He fabricated alternative scenarios to explain Kathy's disappearance. He made it a freak accident, which occurred because Kathy had not planned a day trip well enough. She just ran out of gas, and was waiting somewhere to be found. "And here in a corner of John Wade's imagination, where things neither live nor die, Kathy stares up at him from beneath the surface of the silvered lake," (288). John Wade had blocked out this painful memory, just like he had blocked out his memories of the war in Vietnam. No feeling can stay buried forever, John Wade's pain would be known to the world eventually. Unfortunately it resurfaced through the murder of Kathy Wade. What would John Wade be like if he had never experienced war? Would he just be a silly old man who did magic tricks, only to be made fun of by the people in his life? John Wade did not have an easy life. He had many situations to struggle through. What made John Wade the way he was? "Can we believe that he was not a monster but a man? That he was innocent of everything except his life?" (303). If John Wade had never experience the turmoil of war, he would not have been a criminal, but he would not have been a prominent politician either. The war took John's innocence away from him. John Wade would have feared the world, rather than have tried to conquer it, if he had not been in Vietnam. War changed John Wade. It ruined him, and his marriage. War made John an angry murderer, who could not even face himself. He had to become a new person in order to stay alive, but unfortunately for John, the illusion of his life was not complete.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Give yourself space to appreciate this novel. Von Jonathan B Whitcomb I bought the hardcover when it was published but it took me five years to actually sit down and read it. I read "If I Die In A Combat Zone" as a high school junior in 1980, and have bought and read Tim O'Brien books ever since. Why did it take so long to read? Reading Tim O'Brien requires concentration and an emotional space where you can reflect on his message. I didn't want to read it when I was in a great mood because I knew it would bring me down. Similarly, I didn't want to read it when I was depressed because I wouldn't be able to appreciate his understated message of hope for the human heart. So I waited until I was on a pretty even keel yet also feeling introspective. This is not a book for anyone seeking easy answers. I am often frustrated reading authors who present one dimensional characters who are entirely predictable and understandable. How many people are really like that? The most interesting people are enigmatic, and this book presents hypothesis rather than solutions. I would have felt let down by a stock dime store ending where the author tied up all the loose ends and left me nothing to reflect upon. Tim O'Brien's message is that the questions he presents the reader are more important than any answer that he might propose. How well does one person truly know another? Why do our loved ones love us? Are we defined by our history, or may we transcend it? Thank you, Tim O'Brien, for not attempting to

answer these questions for me. Thank you also for giving me a framework to ponder them.

Kurzbeschreibung A remarkable novel from the National Book Award-winning author of *Going After Cacciato* and *The Things They Carried*, which combines the power of the finest Vietnam fiction with the tension of a many-layered mystery. In a remote lakeside cabin deep in the Minnesota forests, Kathy Wade is comforting her husband John, an ambitious politician, after a devastating electoral defeat. Then one night she vanishes, and gradually the search for Kathy becomes a voyage into the darkest corners of John Wade's life, a life of deception and deceit the life of a man able to escape everything but the chains of his darkest secret.

deTim O'Brien has been writing about Vietnam in one way or another ever since he served there as an infantryman in the late 1960s. His earliest work on the subject, *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, was an intensely personal memoir of his own tour of duty; his books since then have featured many of the same elements of fear, boredom, and moral ambiguity but in a fictional setting. In 1994 O'Brien wrote *In the Lake of the Woods*, a novel that, while imbued with the troubled spirit of Vietnam, takes place entirely after the war and in the United States. The main character, John Wade, is a man in crisis: after spending years building a successful political career, he finds his future derailed during a bid for the U.S. Senate by revelations about his past as a soldier in Vietnam. The election lost by a landslide, John and his wife, Kathy, retreat to a small cabin on the shores of a Minnesota lake--from which Kathy mysteriously disappears. Was she murdered? Did she run away? Instead of answering these questions, O'Brien raises even more as he slowly reveals past lives and long-hidden secrets. Included in this third-person narrative are "interviews" with the couple's friends and family as well as footnoted excerpts from a mix of fictionalized newspaper reports on the case and real reports pertaining to historical events--a mlange that lends the novel an eerie sense of verisimilitude. If Kathy's disappearance is at the heart of this work, then John's involvement in a My Lai-type massacre in Vietnam is its core, and O'Brien uses it to demonstrate how wars don't necessarily end when governments say they do. In *In the Lake of the Woods* may not be true, but it feels true--and for Tim O'Brien, that's true enough. --Alix Wilber.com

Tim O'Brien has been writing about Vietnam in one way or another ever since he served there as an infantryman in the late 1960s. His earliest work on the subject, *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, was an intensely personal memoir of his own tour of duty; his books since then have featured many of the same elements of fear, boredom, and moral ambiguity but in a fictional setting. In 1994 O'Brien wrote *In the Lake of the Woods*, a novel that, while imbued with the troubled spirit of Vietnam, takes place entirely after the war and in the United States. The main character, John Wade, is a man in crisis: after spending years building a successful political career, he finds his future derailed during a bid for the U.S. Senate by revelations about his past as a soldier in Vietnam. The election lost by a landslide, John and his wife, Kathy, retreat to a small cabin on the shores of a Minnesota lake--from which Kathy mysteriously disappears. Was she murdered? Did she run away? Instead of answering these questions, O'Brien raises even more as he slowly reveals past lives and long-hidden secrets. Included in this third-person narrative are "interviews" with the couple's friends and family as well as footnoted excerpts from a mix of fictionalized newspaper reports on the case and real reports pertaining to historical events--a mlange that lends the novel an eerie sense of verisimilitude. If Kathy's disappearance is at the heart of this work, then John's involvement in a My Lai-type massacre in Vietnam is its core, and O'Brien uses it to demonstrate how wars don't necessarily end when governments say they do. In *In the Lake of the Woods* may not be true, but it feels true--and for Tim O'Brien, that's true enough. --Alix Wilber