



Vietnam #2: Sharpshooter

By Chris Lynch

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"The best Vietnam War novels yet for this age range." - KIRKUS REVIEWS

Ivan has never backed down from a fight - especially when it comes to fighting for what's right. Now, as war erupts in Vietnam, he wants nothing more than to fight for his country as a soldier in the US Army, just as his father did in World War II.

But Vietnam is not the war Ivan was expecting. Glory does not come so easily in the jungle. And for the first time, Ivan is forced to question what he's really fighting for . . . and whether it's a fight he can hope to win.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for Chris Lynch's World War II series:

* "An expertly crafted war story with fluid prose, bleak humor, careful attention to historic detail, and a view of 'The Good War' worth pondering." -- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, starred review

"All the sizzle, chaos, noise and scariness of war is clay in the hands of ace storyteller Lynch." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Though aimed at younger readers, Lynch doesn't write down, instead offering a powerful taste of war on a personal level." -- *Publishers Weekly*

Praise for Chris Lynch's Vietnam series:

"The best Vietnam War novels yet for this age range." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Lynch brilliantly captures the war in small details." -- *Booklist*

"A fine balance of thoughtfulness and gritty action." -- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

About the Author

Chris Lynch is the author of numerous acclaimed books for middle-grade and teen readers, including the Cyberia series and the National Book Award finalist INEXCUSABLE. He teaches in the Lesley University creative writing MFA program, and divides his time between Massachusetts and Scotland.

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From Vietnam Book Two: Sharpshooter

The early morning air is cut up with rifle shots coming at us from maybe two hundred yards inland. Every man hits the deck. Corporal Lightfoot fairly lights up the entire jungle with machine-gun fire. The other guys pepper the area blindly with rifle shots. It is a bright and sunny morning and there isn't much hope of seeing where the shots are coming from. Muzzle flashes are faint, and these guys are good with the foliage, because there doesn't seem to be any movement out there anywhere.

"Private Bucyk!" Parrish screams at me. "Do you know what you are supposed to be doing with that thing, or does somebody need to help you?"

"Oh," I say like a simpleton. "Oh, yes, sir." I had made the cardinal error, already, of letting myself get overwhelmed and watching the action. My father would slap me stupid right now.

And, as if it has all been perfectly coordinated for Kuns and me to be arriving in-country and making our

mark on it at the same exact time, we both let off our big mother grenades simultaneously, listen to them whistle across the sky, and watch them land in the same spot.

Users Review

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Patricia Joyner:

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