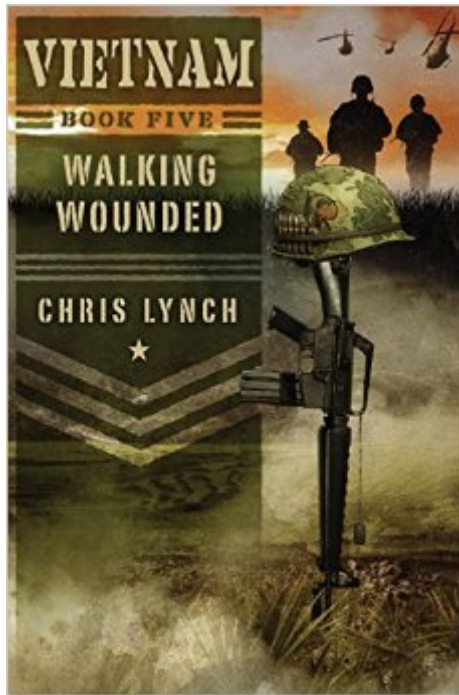


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# Vietnam #5: Walking Wounded



## Synopsis

Morris, Rudi, Ivan, and Beck were best friends. So when one of them was drafted into the Vietnam War, the others signed up, too. They promised to watch out for one another. They pledged to come home together. Now, that pledge has been broken. One of the four has been killed in action. And the remaining three are the only men alive who know the awful truth about their friend's death. Each is left to deal with their secret in his own way. One of them will accompany his friend's body home to Boston. One of them will defy orders in an act of protest. And one of them will decide it's up to him to single-handedly win the war. In the end, Vietnam may claim more than their lives. As the war grinds on, their very souls are at stake. And their shattered friendship will prove either their salvation... or their ruin.

## Book Information

Series: Vietnam (Book 5)

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (October 21, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054564013X

ISBN-13: 978-0545640138

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I received a copy of this book from Scholastic via Net Galley in exchange for a fair review. This is the fifth book in the series, and it is the first one I have read. I still have some questions about what precisely went down at the end of the 4th book, but I was able to read and enjoy the book as a standalone. The book begins seconds after the death of one of four young men who made a pact to stick together through The Vietnam War. It covers the fallout from that death for the remaining three men. This book reminded me of *The Outsiders* because the characters seem very real and are carrying very adult concerns and responsibilities on their shoulders. There is the same dismissive attitude towards the authority figures in their lives, and that, too, rings true for young adults. The

book was well written and well paced. It balanced action with character development and gave a pretty clear picture of how the war damaged people differently. Underlying themes of loyalty, friendship and duty keep this from driving the reader into depression, but it is a dark chapter in history and that is clearly conveyed. The language and situations manage to present the horror of Vietnam in a way appropriate for teen readers. I have a host of high school boys who enjoy books about war, and I can't wait to recommend this title to them. The cover looks younger than the actual content, so I don't expect a high school reader to pick it up without encouragement, but I think they will be hooked after just a couple of chapters. I will add this to my classroom library wish list. I know our high school library carries the series, and I will start recommending it tomorrow. As an adult reader, I was very engaged, and I plan to pick up the others in the series asap. If you enjoyed *Band of Brothers*, *Unbroken*, or *The Things They Carried*, you will probably enjoy this book as well.

Very few Vietnam War novels offer the widely varying views of the Vietnam Vets — we have the reason they joined together — a pledge to sign up when one of them was drafted — and then the pledge broken — but how? The horrible truth emerges — a friend accidentally killed by a friend — “friendly fire” — and the effect this friend's death has on the remaining three — guilt — certainly — but do you sign up to do more to make up for his death? Protest the war? Try to kill yourself? This is a fast moving, intelligent novel narrated by four guys who could well have been there.

Chris Lynch is a great author. I read his first four books in this series and loved them. There was plenty of action, but there was also character depth and development. I felt myself becoming attached to the characters. Quite literally I sometimes found myself on the edge of my seat wondering what would happen next. After Rudi died in the fourth one I expected that Ivan would be brought to justice. Instead Morris and him shake hands and make up by the end of the book. It was most as if Morris has forgotten that Ivan shot his best friend. This book was also very depressing. Granted, the book is about Vietnam, a depressing place, so I wasn't expecting a feel-good novel, but still... it was really depressing. The parts where Rudi narrates the story are really weird because HE'S DEAD!!! This strange element adds a whole other layer of eeriness to the book. As I said before, Chris Lynch is still a great author in my opinion. Even though I did not like this book, I must say that it was very well written. I only wish that it had ended better.

Memorable characters and great storyline make this book a must read. I shared this with my son

once I was done reading it and he enjoyed it as much as I did. The author demonstrates a great ability to connect characters with the readers. I was given this book in exchange for an honest review via Netgalley.

My son has the entire series and loves anything and everything he can get his hands on. He especially enjoyed this series and this book in particular.

Great series ... my students were excited when I showed them my recent purchase!

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