

More Reviews for *War Without End, Amen*

TEXT OF REVIEW THAT WAS EXCERPTED ON THE HOME PAGE

“I now approach any new novel about the war in Vietnam with a question: ‘How much more is there to say?’ This book, the first novel by retired journalist Tim Coder, has answered: plenty. Its 500 pages are filled with powerful observations, compelling characters and fine writing. It begins here, where ‘Chicago’s heat was wicked . . . Hell, however, wasn’t in the heat. That arrived, settled and stayed with the air, or what passed for it — a torpid brew of sucked out-breath, fumes and sweat simmering for a week now in a windless stew that was killing people.’ The story travels across the world and through decades, filled with battles and memories, ghosts and terrors. Lt. Adrian Pokorny and Sgt. Paul Murphy survived the war but traveled uneasily through life. Coder was a sergeant squad leader in the 101st Airborne in Vietnam. He tells his story from a soldier’s perspective and with a journalist’s clear style.”

—Rick Kogan, *Chicago Tribune*

MORE REVIEWS

“As a sergeant squad leader in the 101st Airborne Division in 1969, Tim Coder wrote his book from the perspective of the infantrymen and NCOs who led them in the Vietnam War. It’s especially moving and devastating to see war told by the men who did most of the fighting and dying, and that’s what makes *War Without End, Amen* so great.”

—Vietnam Dog Handler Association national newspaper

“In his novel, Tim Coder relives the war through the eyes of his main character, Sgt. Paul Murphy. Forty years after the war, Murphy travels to see his former platoon leader who is on his deathbed. The visit brings back the memories of firefights, friendships, folly, phantoms and screw-ups. For me, the story brought back the sounds, the smells, the fears, the terror, the valor — and, yes, the survivors’ guilt.”

—Roger Morrissey, *Omaha.Com*

“*War Without End, Amen* is a complex, well-written novel which goes back and forth between present-day America and war-time South Vietnam . . . A Vietnam War literature rarity is the introduction of an important Vietnamese character, Private Phong, an enemy deserter . . . This is a novel with a strong moral conscience, expressed often by Murphy, the main character, who says, ‘Most every grunt scorned hardcore remfs. But most at one time or another would have sold their OD souls to be one.’ ”

—David Willson, in the online *VVA Veteran*

“Admittedly I really did not want to read this novel. Vietnam was a very small, but significant part of my life, and I’ve reached the conclusion that my reading was “over weighted” with that topic . . . (but a) friend told me this was a very good read . . . Coder has written an excellent, well-crafted novel. He throws out some disparate pieces to his story at the beginning, and then pulls them together, appropriately, in bits and starts, the camera lens becoming more focused. He reveals early on that certain people will die, but the how is the dramatic tension that increases, and keeps the pages turning even faster . . . The core of the novel concerns a familiar theme in war: “the band of brothers” . . . the metaphorical *sons of the Greatest Generation*, would be the ones who would truly fulfill the unit’s motto, by standing alone, trying to get through those hauntingly beautiful mountains, the Annamese Cordillera, whose shades of green were infinite. They longed for the lowlands. A very different objective: Not to be the last man to die for a mistake . . . Coder weaves into this novel some of eternal themes of war in general, and this war

in particular. Duty, honor, and the competence of the officers. When, if ever, does one actually DEROS? A great read 5-stars, plus.”

—*John P. Jones, Amazon Top 1000 Reviewer*

“I couldn't put it down. What a fantastic story. The ghosts of the past and the uncertainty of the future. The brave soldiers of Vietnam were some of the best soldiers ever. This book will take you on a journey through the mind of the soldier and the hell in the field and what happens when he comes home.”

—*Chris Hutchison, Amazon reviewer*

“I normally do not read war stories, but this one kept my interest in spite of the bloodshed. All the characters were interesting. I liked the ghost. He added an element of spiritualism to the story. I enjoyed his commentary also. It was a very good read. I could tell Tim put a great deal of thought and effort into writing this novel.”

—*Donna Marie, Amazon reviewer*

“This book has now risen to the top of the list of my favorite books about a soldier's experience in Vietnam. Although a work of fiction, the author's attention to detail concerning small unit tactics and interpersonal relationships made for a compelling read. It also provides valuable insight to what has only recently been recognized and given legitimacy as post-traumatic stress disorder.”

—*William T. Meddings, Amazon reviewer*

“The author writes a page-turning and well-constructed story of small unit life and death in the Nam, developing his characters to great depth, and their march to oblivion, both the fallen and the survivors. I'm usually not a fan of war fiction, but this book has been the remarkable exception.”

—*Joseph Duffy, Amazon reviewer*

“The reason I enjoyed this book so much is that it is written by a light infantryman, a guy who actually experienced on the ground the hellhole that was Vietnam. This book was not written by an officer, or lifer, who pushed papers but never dodged bullets. Nor was it written by a war correspondent reporting the action from a select location. It was written by a true grunt who, as it turns out, has a real gift for journalism.”

—*John Neuman, Amazon reviewer*

“As a Vietnam veteran, I found this novel authentic and compelling. It should be required reading for any political leader who advocates sending our fellow citizens into war.”

—*Steve Northrup, Amazon reviewer*

“After the Army, I did watch a few movies about the war but I never had an interest in reading about Vietnam. I was happy that I had avoided the war and was still avoiding it in some ways. The people I knew that came back from the war didn't want to talk about it either. Then a friend began recommending Tim Coder's book. For many months, I avoided suggestions I read the book (like I did the actual war). Finally, I surrendered and bought a copy. I couldn't put it down. Coder took me inside the war I missed, a grunt-level account of a shrinking band of brothers trying to do their job and make it out of the war alive. There's a highly intimate look at . . . a war that didn't end in one vet's mind while he dealt with a dead point man who refused to stay dead.

Coder draws out the personalities of his characters with skill. If I had to serve in Vietnam, I would have liked to serve with either of his two main characters. Overall, though, I'm even more

thankful I didn't have to go there. But thanks to Coder's book, I have a much deeper understanding of what many vets went through during and after the war. Highly recommended."

—*Raven, Amazon reviewer*

"The author was a journalist and a sergeant in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne, and both experiences are evident in this first novel. I also served in the 101st, arriving in the same brigade a few months after he did, although we have never met.

Everything in the novel feels real and mature. The premise is intriguing and the story line plausible. In an environment of confusion and mixed messages, he manages to stay disciplined in his timing and characterizations. I would say his action scenes are riveting, capturing the chaos and noise and smells and fears of combat with clarity The characters were finely drawn, particularly Paul. My initial reaction was that these were going to be like the players in most war novels from *Naked and the Dead* to *Battle Cry* to *Thin Red Line* — convenient and very PC in their inclusion of stereotyped young men of all colors and nationalities. Fortunately for the reader, his characters went beyond the stereotypes as the book developed, and veterans will certainly recognize the types as representative.

The dialogue rang true to my ears, as did the military nomenclature and tactics. But more important to the reader, the attitudes and the dysfunctional behaviors are also true to life. . . . For Paul, and indeed for all the major characters, their sanity and their soul are at stake, not just their lives. His development as a leader and as a man makes him a sympathetic person, not a cardboard picture

Sometimes the best history is written as fiction, and this is one of those times.

—*Amazon Reviewer*

"Awesome."

—*Steven Wolph, Amazon Reviewer*