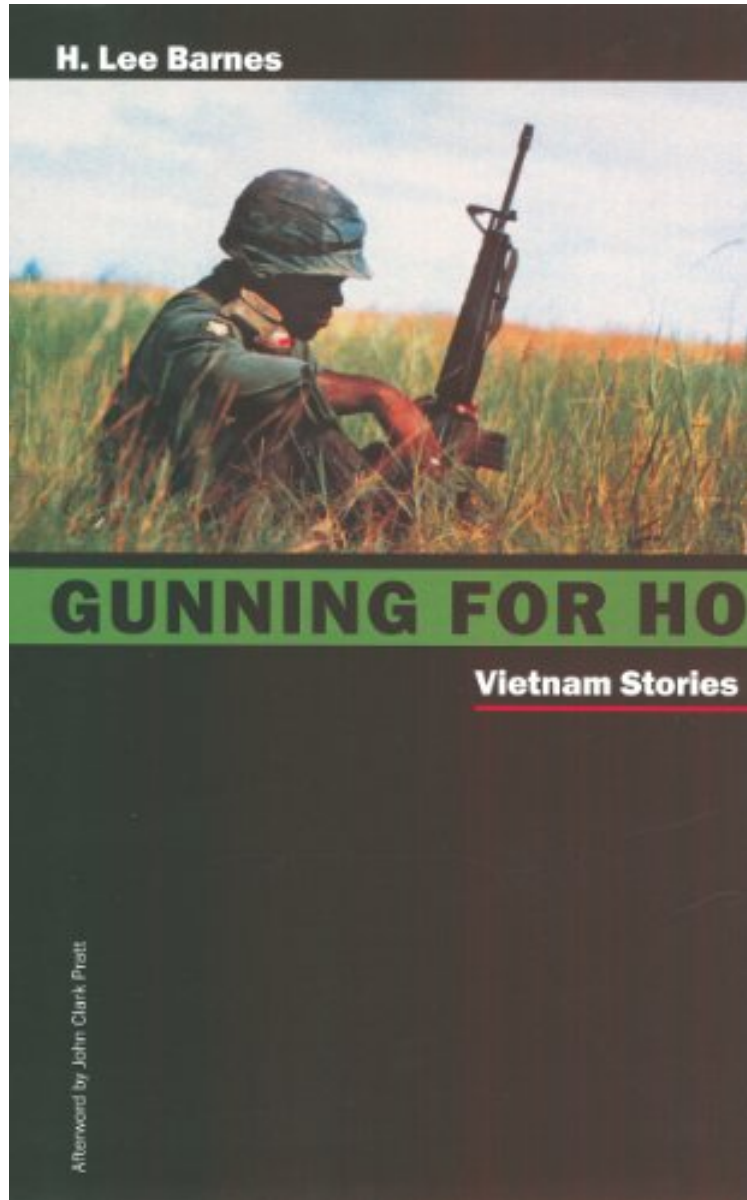


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## Gunning For Ho: Vietnam Stories (Western Literature Series)

*Von H. Lee Barnes*

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**Von H. Lee Barnes : Gunning For Ho: Vietnam Stories (Western Literature Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gunning For Ho: Vietnam Stories (Western Literature Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

MASTERFUL STORYTELLING  
Von Christina Corelli  
Don't let the simple cover of this book fool you. Don't shy away from this book because it is a book of war stories (as I was tempted to do, as my taste usually runs along a different venue). Anyone who appreciates beautifully written and compelling stories will enjoy this book. Within its pages are some of the most beautiful stories and interesting characters that I have had the pleasure of reading and meeting. What is striking is the author's blazing talent for storytelling and an extremely well-honed and cutting talent for writing literature. The stories in this book do not merely entertain; they perfume the senses of the mind. The characters are so well drawn they come to life within the pages. What has stayed with me long after finishing the final page, are the haunting and beautiful images the author Barnes has (seemingly effortlessly), managed to create. In "The Cat in the Cage" the tragic picture of the soldier Widerly trapped within a too-small cage clutching a kitten - his father Calvin years later, carrying away with him the delicate glass rose given him by Mai, the Vietnamese woman who was the only human to show his son compassion in his last days. In "Stonehands and the Tigress" my personal favorite of these stories with its strong, if surreal streak of mysticism - the image left with me is that of the slow waltz between the giant Stonehands and the powerful tigress with the soul of an Indian princess. The aggrieved father and his wife bouncing along in a pickup enroute to a dreaded meet at the end of which lies at least, resolution in "The Return". Barnes writes with a delicate yet probing insight on the subtleties and nuances of relationships, whether they are between a man and woman, soldiers and veterans, or parent/child. One is able to grasp the intense and sometimes agonizing loyalty and yes, love between men, with whom such feelings need not be spoken aloud. He captures the fleeting, yet painful yearning that we have all felt for a lost love during a poignant moment in "Tunnel Rat" as well as a wealth of other complex and intricate emotions. In "Tunnel Rat" main character Paez comes vividly to life, and the narrator Rowe (who in my mind's eye played like a young Nick Nolte) broke my heart with his final line at the end of this novella. I will be keeping my eye out for the next piece of work from H. Lee Barnes. There are many more gems to be discovered within the seven tales told within this book. It is well worth the read. Happy hunting.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Five Stars  
Von Bill Branon  
In Gunning for Ho, Vietnam Stories, author Lee Barnes accomplishes something unique. He manages to capture the human drama that flows in that eerie twilight zone between unbridled violence and static tension. Like a surgeon dissecting a vital artery away from the surface of the brain, Barnes works in that most subtle of literary interface -- a place where a slip in one direction dissolves into bloody chaos or, conversely, into the babbling incoherence of introspection run amok. Barnes' scalpel is creepy-sharp. His discipline shimmers. He is a pro's pro, both in the Tules and on the written page. I'm stunned, not by the bangs but by the whispers. This man Barnes, a Green Beret in I-Corps, based 40 clicks from the Laotian border, has experienced that unique hell that doesn't come at you out of the instant like a car wreck or a drive-by. His hell, like that of those combat vets on both sides and of earlier times, is the kind of terror you saddle-up for each morning at zero-dark hundred. Contemplative courage. Real courage. Few, if any writers on the Vietnam experience have taken this path. This a book for "professional" readers, an act of sharing, an analysis of bonding. Not only does he walk this dark trail, Mr. Lee Barnes walks point.-submitted by reader Bill Branon, author of Let Us Prey (a '92 NY Times notable Book of the Year), Devils Hole, Timesong, and Spider Snatch.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Gunning For Ho  
Von Tonja Page  
I read Gunning For Ho from a unique perspective...I've known the author, H. Lee Barnes, for some twenty three years. I can truly say (and should, in honesty for this review) he is a rare jewel in my current group of lifetime friends. But...when I met him, he was impenetrably wrapped in the shield of his own personal darkness...the major souvenir he (and so many others) brought home from Vietnam. I cared for him, and wanted to know him...but there is no caring for a man who cares for nothing...and there is no knowing a man who has lost faith in everything he ever believed he knew. Lee and I lost touch with each other for over eighteen years. In those years, this man, who I predicted to do a slow and certain self destruction, was busy rebuilding and refilling himself. He achieved academic degrees by going to school at night while working full time in the emotionally and intellectually draining environs of a casino. He learned that he loves the language, and the sculpting of it. He found that he enjoyed and was gifted at sharing knowledge and imparting skills to the young and bright and eager. He became a writer, then a teacher, and then a professor. Eventually he grew to use his new comfort with words as self-therapy, and somewhere during this healing (exorcism?), he emerged with a full and freed soul. He is now a man with much to say about the experience that so tainted his youth; indeed, tainted all the youth of our nation for a decade. This book contains the essence of his considerable insight about the unique experience that was the war in Vietnam. You have never in read any other author's work the same perspective that you will find here. Lee's mastery of characterization is unequalled. You not only believe these young men he offers you, you earnestly care for them. You agonize for them, and your heart is warmed by them, often unexpectedly. This author has refused to be pulled into the trap of polishing his subjects, or glorifying their motives or results...he steadfastly writes them as they surely were; scared, brave, ethnic, dumb, smart, real. You will never read anything on Vietnam that more accurately conveys the uniqueness of this conflict; the simple geography of it, the unconscious sociology of it, the fragile humanity of the boys our nation dispassionately sacrificed to the experience of it. Read this book. It's not a war novel; it's a seriously creative collection of stories about a surreal experience that was arguably the grittiest and most definitive reality of a generation. I expect many more books of quality from H. Lee Barnes, but I don't expect any more work on this subject. This man survived,

returned home, reclaimed himself, and acquitted himself. He now offers his exceptionally literate view of the experience and the men who died in it, the men who lived through it, and those who just got lost in it. H. Lee Barnes no longer qualifies as one of those lost. I think his Vietnam tour is finally over and complete, and his upcoming horizons are free of it...and this book is both his parting shot and his heartfelt tribute to the Vietnam War.

**Kurzbeschreibung**In this rich and varied collection of short stories (six stories one novella), former Green Beret Lee Barnes deals with the war itself and with its aftermath, but his stories focus more on the human aspects of men in armed conflict and families at home than on the violent drama or political aspects of that war.