



# Home before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam

By Lynda Van Devanter

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**Home before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam** By Lynda Van Devanter

Lynda Van Devanter was the girl next door, the cheerleader who went to Catholic schools, enjoyed sports, and got along well with her four sisters and parents. After high school she attended nursing school and then did something that would shatter her secure world for the rest of her life: in 1969, she joined the army and was shipped to Vietnam. When she arrived in Vietnam her idealistic view of the war vanished quickly. She worked long and arduous hours in cramped, ill-equipped, understaffed operating rooms. She saw friends die. Witnessing a war close-up, operating on soldiers and civilians whose injuries were catastrophic, she found the very foundations of her thinking changing daily.

After one traumatic year, she came home, a Vietnam veteran. Coming home was nearly as devastating as the time she spent in Asia. Nothing was the same ? including Lynda herself. Viewed by many as a murderer instead of a healer, she felt isolated and angry. The anger turned to depression; like many other Vietnam veterans she suffered from delayed stress syndrome. Working in hospitals brought back chilling scenes of hopelessly wounded soldiers. A marriage ended in divorce. The war that was fought physically halfway around the world had become a personal, internal battle.

*Home before Morning* is the story of a woman whose courage, stamina, and personal history make this a compelling autobiography. It is also the saga of others who went to war to aid the wounded and came back wounded ? physically and emotionally ? themselves. And, it is the true story of one person's triumphs: her understanding of, and coming to terms with, her destiny.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"This incredible story, which plunges us immediately into the bloodiest aspects of the war, is also a suspenseful autobiography that will keep you chewing your fingernails to see if Van Devanter survives any of it at all. She proves herself a natural storyteller. . . . The most extraordinary part in this book is Van Devanter's plight after the war?her attempt to retrieve the love of her family, only to realize they don't want to see her slides, hear her stories; her assignment to menial duties at Walter Reed Army Hospital. . . . How Van Devanter survives all of this to become, incredibly, a stronger person for it is what makes her book so riveting."? *San Francisco Chronicle*

"An awesome, painfully honest look at war through a woman's eyes. Her letters home and startling images of life in a combat zone?surgeons fighting to save a Vietnamese baby wounded in utero, the ever-present stench of napalm-charred flesh, a beloved priest's gentle humor and appalling death, the casual heroism of her colleagues, a Vietnamese 'Papa-san' trying to talk his dead child back to life, a haunting snapshot dropped by a dying soldier with no face?tell the story of a young American's rude initiation to the best and the worst of humanity."? *Washington Post*

"Moving, powerful . . . a healing book."? *Ms. Magazine*

"This book reads like a diary: unguarded, heartfelt. . . . [It] is both moving and valuable, for reminding us so vividly that war is indeed hell . . . and that its most tested heroes are the doctors and nurses who doggedly labor not just to save life, but also to keep their respect for it, even as their surviving patients are sent out, once more, unto the breach."? *Harper's Magazine*

"In Vietnam, reality hit fast: Van Devanter's plane was fired on when it landed in Saigon; and after three days of adjustment, she was assigned to the 71st Evacuation Hospital, a 'MASH-type facility' near the Cambodian border. There, the casualties, . . . the personal danger, the fatigue, the heat, rain, and mud, the harassment of officers enforcing petty regulations, and above all the meaninglessness of American involvement rapidly put an end to Van Devanter's blind patriotism, her innocence, and her youth. . . . Van Devanter brings us face to face with the toll that undeclared war took on its combatants."? *Kirkus Reviews*

"If you read only one work about Vietnam, make this the one. . . . This is the way it was, as seen through the eyes of an army second lieutenant when she was twenty-two. I believe her completely, because this reviewer remembers Vietnam the same way, when he was a nineteen-year-old Marine PFC."? *Deseret Sentinel*

#### About the Author

Lynda Van Devanter served as the National Women's Director of the Vietnam Veterans of America. She counseled other Vietnam veterans and conducted seminars around the country. Coping with ill health since her tour of duty in Vietnam, she died in November 2002 at age fifty-five.

### Users Review

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**Viola Hassell:**

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive at this point, people have to do something to make these people survive, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. For you who want to start reading the book, we give you that Home before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam book as beginner and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

**Pablo McNamara:**

Typically the book Home before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research just before write this book. That book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

**Donald Rivera:**

In this age globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you is Home before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam this e-book consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The language styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some research when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book appropriate all of you.

**Bernie Watts:**

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