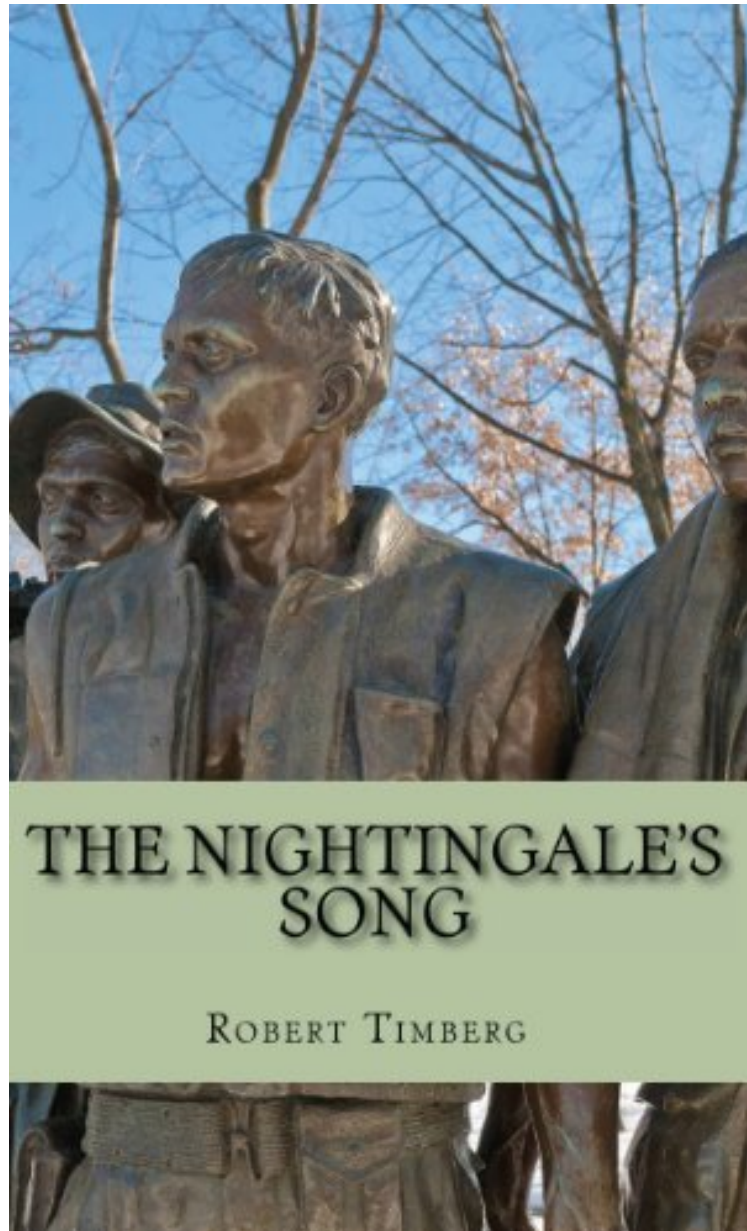


[PDF] The Nightingales Song (English Edition)

The Nightingales Song (English Edition)

Von Robert Timberg

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Von Robert Timberg : The Nightingales Song (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nightingales Song (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This book is an absolute masterpiece!Von Ein KundeAfter reading "Into Thin Air" a year ago, I thought that it would be a

long time before I read anything quite so mesmerizing. Well, "The Nightingale's Song" rivals "Into Thin Air" in this regard. Written by a Naval Academy graduate, Robert Timberg, "The Nightingale's Song" is chock full of incredibly interesting insights about the lives and careers of five Naval Academy graduates who are somewhat familiar to anyone with an interest in national politics. Additionally, Timberg's nuanced analysis of the political innerworkings of the Reagan Administration which contributed to the Iran Contra debacle seems to be completely on the money. Relative to the five individuals profiled (Messrs McCain, North, Webb, Poindexter and McFarlane), Timberg paints five fascinating profiles which honestly deals with the strengths and weaknesses of each. One can read the book and still feel great respect for Oliver North, whose penchant for excess is thoroughly documented, due to his undying commitment to getting the mission accomplished (whatever it might have been). Case in point: Timberg's account of how North went back to Vietnam (after having ended his tour) on his own time and money to defend a former colleague on an unfair charge is one of the most inspiring of many inspiring stories in the book. My admiration for John McCain, which was high before I read the book, is through the roof after reading about the courage and tenacity with which he conducted himself while in the Hanoi Hilton. If anything, Timberg's own personal connection with the Academy gave him a great perspective with which to delve into the lives of each of these men and what forces might have shaped their individual characters. I can't recommend this book strongly enough. Timberg is now one of those writers that I would automatically buy (if he ever writes anything else). Given this tour de force, it would be a shame if he doesn't take another crack at a major work.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Outstanding Review of Five Controversial Annapolis Grads Von Ein Kunde This is by far the best biography I have yet to find on the five prominent and controversial "Ring Knockers" (Annapolis grads). The author, a former Annapolis Marine himself, gave an impartial review of how the Vietnam War affected the strategic outlook of these Ring Knockers for the armed forces in the crucial years of the Reagan Era. It seems to me that Poindexter and Webb served their country most honorably and with integrity, while I came out with ambivalence toward McFarlane and North. This is the first comprehensive biography on McCain, Webb and Poindexter, since none of them wrote self-promoting and self-serving memoirs. I have not yet read McFarlane's memoir, so will withhold my judgment on him. However, I came out most disgusted with LTC North. I have read his autobiography and other articles written about him, and thus feel qualified to render my judgment. Though a dedicated, competent Marine grunt, he had served his country out of desire to advance his own career. The Colonel is a congenital liar unwilling to admit his past mistakes and shortcomings, should they prove to be stumbling blocks to his own agenda. Throughout his autobiography, he often distorts facts and grossly exaggerates his own self-importance. However, one thing is clear: from the Vietnam War, his own lesson had been that of never abandoning an ally to whom you pledged your commitment. This, he followed to the letter. Poindexter, though never served in Southeast Asia, developed a distrust and disgust toward the civilian politicians during the war as an aide to the two SecNavs under the Nixon Administration. As a young lieutenant commander, he saw how the politicians and the generals and admirals botched up the war effort in Vietnam. An officer of extensive experience in the Washington circles, but with a high sense of duty and integrity, he vowed never to let civilians botch up another war under his watch. Poindexter, a man with supreme intellect and of "highest integrity" was rather naive, and ignorant toward Reagan's facade and his subordinate, North. Reagan, as time proved, seemed to stand for nothing beyond his anti-Communist rhetoric. Reagan did not accept responsibility for the scandal, and thus left his men hanging to dry. Poindexter also was to pay dearly for having placed too much trust and power in a zealot loose cannon named North, but refused to participate in slandering that ensued between North and McFarlane. He took the blame by accepting impeachment and a demotion from a Vice Admiral to a Rear Admiral. "The Nightingale's Song," a metaphor to Reagan's anti-Communist rhetoric had hypnotized North, McFarlane and Poindexter into blindly dancing to Reagan's tunes, for they all believed that Reagan was the one who would provide the country with strong leadership to win the war against the Communists. However, Reagan was not the one they were looking for: he did not know what he was doing, nor what he was talking about. He shied away from taking responsibility for the mishaps under his watch. In the end, all three paid a fearsome price for their ignorance. Though neither McCain, nor Webb played a direct, if any role in the Iran-Contra Affairs, they were important figures in shaping the defense policy under Reagan. The former enthusiastically embraced the idea of women in uniform, while the latter opposed it to the bitter end. The impact of these five Annapolis Ring Knockers were still to be felt in the defense community in the next decade. The Iran-Contra Affair only caused the Congress to become cynical of the American involvement overseas. Had it not been for the Desert Storm and the collapse of communism, the United States was destined to retreat to yet another period of isolation. A final note: I found his conclusion that North replaced Reagan as the new Nightingale very truthful. Unlike Reagan, he has a polarizing effect in the political arena as evident in his 1994 Senate campaign. But like Reagan, he continues to provide the Americans--people who are desperate for heroes--with false illusion of duty and purpose. Very well done!

!0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Absolute Winner Von Ein Kunde I first read this book when it was originally published. Now, with the potential presidential campaign of John McCain unfolding, I revisited it, and in so doing, reaffirmed to myself what a tremendous story this is. Robert Timberg presents a fascinating study of five contemporary American men, their formative years, their central experience...Vietnam, and then their post-war life and public service. During Iran-

Contra, I was never a fan of either MacFarlane or Poindexter. North was something else, though, especially intriguing in his defiant testimony before Congress. But I came away from this book with a much different feeling towards these three men. My impression of Poindexter changed very favorably, not because of his actions but because of his sense of responsibility. I found myself to be very sympathetic towards MacFarlane ...a reasonably good man in a situation out of control. North, to me, became the villain...an extremely loose cannon with no controls from above. My admiration of McCain and Webb continues to grow. McCain's experiences, especially aboard USS Forrestal and then as a prisoner of war, are riveting. The parallel heroics of McCain's wife during the war is just as inspirational. But I found James Webb to be the most interesting character. Here is a very young man distinguishing himself as an outstanding combat leader, but powerless to prevent the slaughter of his men. Returning to law school, he faces an almost hostile environment, ridiculing his service and the sacrifice of his comrades. In the midst of this, Webb embarks on a process of establishing himself as a significant author, and also becomes a significant but controversial figure within the Navy. This is a book dealing with service, courage, honor and commitment, of paths which diverged and paths which converged. Above all, it is a book dealing with obedience to orders, and the consequences this obedience can produce. Read this book.

Kurzbeschreibung Robert Timberg weaves together the lives of Annapolis graduates John McCain, James Webb, Oliver North, Robert McFarlane, and John Poindexter to reveal how the Vietnam War continues to haunt America. Casting all five men as metaphors for a legion of well-meaning if ill-starred warriors, Timberg probes the fault line between those who fought the war and those who used money, wit, and connections to avoid battle. A riveting tale that illuminates the flip side of the fabled Vietnam generation -- those who went. Pressestimmen Mark Shields The Washington Post If you want to read a terrific book about courage and cowardice, honor and betrayal, suffering and death, and the indomitability of the human spirit, get *The Nightingale's Song*. Mike Barnicle The Boston Globe This is an amazing piece of work that could make you cry over descriptions of bravery so bold and so big...It is about the soul of a nation...This is a stunning book. David Halberstam author of *The Best and the Brightest* *The Nightingale's Song*... has an almost hypnotic authority all its own and belongs on the same shelf as those classics of the Vietnam War, Neil Sheehan's *A Bright Shining Lie*, Philip Caputo's *A Rumor of War*, and Harold G. Moore and Joseph Galloway's *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*. Kurzbeschreibung Robert Timberg weaves together the lives of Annapolis graduates John McCain, James Webb, Oliver North, Robert McFarlane, and John Poindexter to reveal how the Vietnam War continues to haunt America. Casting all five men as metaphors for a legion of well-meaning if ill-starred warriors, Timberg probes the fault line between those who fought the war and those who used money, wit, and connections to avoid battle. A riveting tale that illuminates the flip side of the fabled Vietnam generation -- those who went.