

In *Blood Chit*, Grady Smith delivers a Vietnam war novel that is both haunted and haunting in its gritty realism. The writing is crisp and visual, the pace captivating and relentless; one can't help but see, hear and feel the thup-thup-thup of the Huey's gliding just above the jungle canopy with its steamy, lush, deadly allure -- an image that every veteran of that era should instantly recognize. And yet...and yet one is also constantly reminded that these characters transcend Vietnam and are just as relevant to today's wars and the American warriors who fight them and who must return home to rediscover their place in the world. So while the Vietnam theme may be a familiar one, the ultimate result -- a rare and meaningful book -- is not. *Blood Chit* is a great accomplishment by a gifted writer. Do yourself a favor: Read it!

Jim Mathews

Air National Guard: two tours in Iraq

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