



# Boocoo Dinky Dow: My Short, Crazy Vietnam War

*Grady C. Myers , Julie A. Titone*

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## Boocoo Dinky Dow: My Short, Crazy Vietnam War Details

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# **From Reader Review Boocoo Dinky Dow: My Short, Crazy Vietnam War for online ebook**

## **Jo Deurbrouck says**

The summer after highschool graduation in 1967, Grady Myers decides to escape from his boring hometown of Boise, Idaho, a “Western backwater where times could’ve easily passed for a decade earlier,” via Vietnam.

But the recruiters won’t have him, first because the artistic boy asks for a drafting job and the man says they need combat troops. The second recruiter, on hearing that the boy wants a combat position, rejects him because he wears glasses. Myers spends a semester in college and then, even more bored, “volunteers” for the draft. This time he’s accepted.

The rest of “Boocoo Dinky Dow” (2012), a memoir published after Myers’ death, details his transformations from boy to soldier to wounded Vietnam veteran. The book was cowritten with his ex-wife, longtime journalist Julie Titone. The collaboration did not result in a smooth, polished read. Titone clearly felt it was important to honor Myers’ voice, not just his stories. I found that lack of polish offputting at first, but I quickly learned to ignore and then to enjoy it. The tone is very much that of a man holding forth over beers at the pub, telling his truth if not THE truth.

As with most modern war stories, “Boocoo” is fueled by ironies. For instance, although the soldiers constantly talk about escaping from Vietnam, the young Myers clearly finds soldiering entertaining, right up to and apparently even during the ambush which ends his military career.

Another recurrent irony is that, “An infantryman is rarely told more than he needs to know to do his job, and sometimes not even that.” Again and again, the soldiers in “Boocoo Dinky Dow” make life and death decisions in an information vacuum, in a universe in which the rules they grew up by are useless, and most useless of all is that common sense rule that says staying alive is an individual’s primary goal.

“Boocoo Dinky Dow” reminded me that wars are (and probably must be) waged by boys turned too suddenly -- and incompletely -- into men.

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## **Piper O'byrne says**

Well-written, expressive, and descriptive in a way that you can tell that Grady Myers was an artist, even without the wonderful illustrations he provided. I found myself laughing aloud at points, and wiping a tear away at others. His memories give you a unique view of the conflict in Vietnam; a first-hand account of the humor and horror he and other young men faced. This will be one of those books I read more than once.

Boocoo Dinky Dow

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## **Jerry Teipen says**

An honest account of the Vietnam experience for one man.

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## **Melissa says**

I won this book on Goodreads First Reads & first let me say I love the title to this book. Especially about half way through when it explained what it meant & I had to give myself a mental head slap followed by a quick "Duh"!! When I started reading the first few chapters, I pictured myself back in basic & AIT & just had to laugh at so many of the goofy, stressful, fun times that I had there! I could just picture my battles & drills & NCO's like I was standing right there looking at them again & honestly I thank you for the reminder that it wasn't just a dream and I wasn't the only person that experienced it (even the problems with the bars & weak wrists, being sent to warrior rehab & being recycled)!

I really fell in love with Myers by the end of this story! He reminds me of an old battle of mine who was massive in size but so easy to get along with despite the select few that constantly got onto him about his size & clumsy ways. I really love how there were just enough of the right details to feel like you were right there with Myers, watching with horror as you & your battles are ambushed or imagining the taste of the dirt and the sounds of the weapons going off around you. It was a very well written book & I am surely passing it on asap!

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## **AudioBookReviewer says**

**ABR's original Boocoo Dinky Dow: My short, crazy Vietnam War audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.**

Unfortunately this was not really a book to my liking, however, I believe it is a good autobiographical Vietnam War story. I'm just not one for the graphic nature of war stories or for that matter any genre that has such sadness and/or bloody gore, and since my son is a soldier with two tours in Iraq...well, I'm just not keen on hearing it. There is a very nice prologue from the co-author (Grady's ex-wife). Right off the bat you are in Vietnam but soon you return stateside to hear Grady Meyers' original interest for joining the military and that scene was hilarious. From there you follow his military life. Throughout the book there are funny stories, but there are many more sad ones, after all it is a war story and war is awful. I have to give both authors credit though, the overall tone was not really morbid, just facts entwined within an adventure story. I never really did figure out what the title meant but I think it was something a Vietnamese woman said in response to some off-color conversation the soldiers were having with her.

As far as the narrator, Jeffrey S Felon, his voice was strong and he kept the story moving at a steady pace, plus, he had great sound effects. I was impressed with his conversational style especially when multiple characters were talking, sometimes all at once. I'm not sure I would like his reading of another genre but he was well-suited for this one (and I would be happy to hear him again to test my thought). The production was very well done. The front cover picture is great and I imagine the written book with the pictures by the author would be nice to see.

It is obvious the author was deeply moved by his experience in Vietnam, and obviously had a rough life after he was injured, but at least in the story he doesn't victimize himself. Throughout the book the reader can see how easy it would be to give up and spend the rest of your life embittered but I didn't hear that from his words; he seems much more interested in creating if not a happier view, a less traumatic one by infusing the period with humor. After a time though, it all got to be a bit monotonous and I kept thinking it a long story, but really it's only about 7 hours, 30 minutes.

Audiobook provided for review by the author.

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