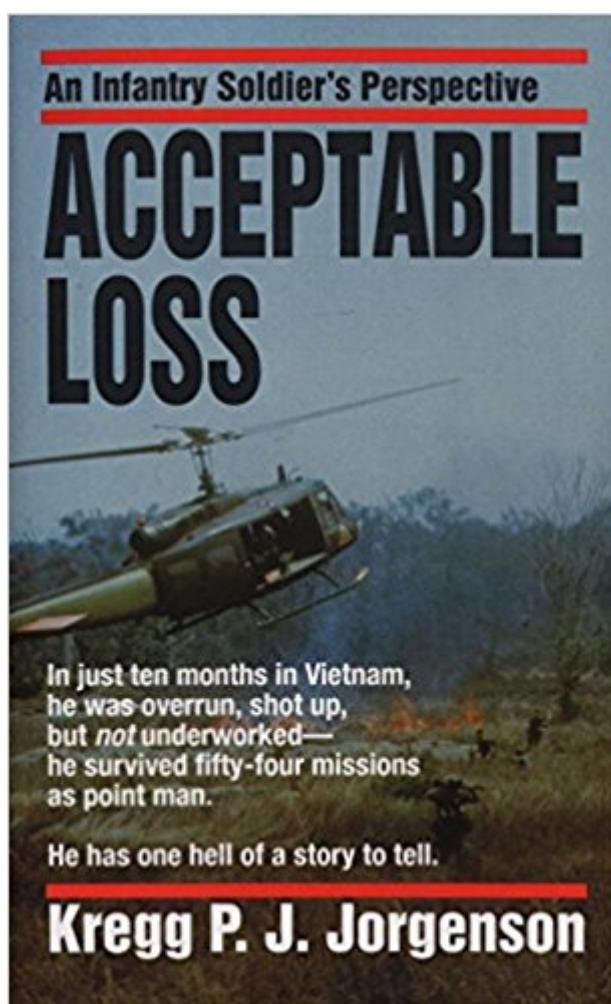


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# Acceptable Loss: An Infantry Soldier's Perspective



## **Synopsis**

The true-to-life story of a Ranger who volunteered to serve on a Blue Team in the Air Cavalry, racing to the aid of soldiers who faced the same dangers he had barely survived in the jungles of Vietnam. Whether enduring NVA sniper attacks, surviving "friendly" fire, or landing in hot LZs, Jorgenson discovered that in Vietnam you never knew whether you were paranoid or just painfully aware of the possibilities.

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## **Customer Reviews**

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Kregg P. Jorgenson served in Vietnam with Company H, Rangers, and later with Apache Troop, the 1st Squadron of the 9th Cavalry. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and City University of Seattle. He lives in the Pacific Northwest.

"The Army gave us two parachutes. If the first one fails, open the emergency then when you land there will be a truck on the drop zone to bring you guys in. As I leaped from the plane, the guy behind me had his first chute fail, then his emergency chute failed and as he flew by me at 120 mph

I heard him say, "I bet the truck aint there either"".The above is a story one G.I. tells another in the book. Obviously a joke but the irony of the story is something you adopt having served time in the Army. Kregg Jorgenson takes us through his tour of Vietnam where he landed as a gung-ho, let me at em boot and left the war a year later, wiser, 10 years older with a cynicism reserved only for those who have been in combat.Kregg volunteered for the Rangers pretty much as soon as he arrived in Vietnam. 5 man teams sent out on reconnaissance missions into hostile territory. He tells his mission stories with both humor and seriousness. He enjoyed what he did despite the fear he felt. After a spell on Ranger teams he joined the Air Cav, 1st of the 9th as a "Blue". The missions mainly involved rescuing downed chopper pilots inside enemy held territory.He has a no nonsense way of telling his story and you can feel the gung-ho, spit, shine nature he landed in Vietnam with erode from the middle outwards as he sees friends get killed or maimed, and as he sees friends and trusted team member rotate out of Vietnam back to the world. Despite the erosion and eventual disappearance of the "John Wayne" spirit he retained his professional edge as far as doing his job. He struggles with his inner thoughts and guilt about the situation. The guilt is only magnified once he receives the Silver Star for bravery in combat. Unfortunately this was the same battle where he lost a good friend.As his time in country and his reputation with his buddies grows and, after he is seriously injured he is offered "soft" jobs which he wants to accept but, due to his nature and his torment, he turns them down again and again. Even a serious wound to his legs doesn't help him accept a soft job. Once out the hospital he is back with his team doing what they do best, rescuing downed airmen.I particularly enjoyed Jorgenson letting us inside his head as he deals with his thoughts and his guilt. The fear is always there but with each siren heralding a new mission the adrenaline rush overcame the fear somewhat and he'd go back out. 54 missions and 3 purple hearts later he came back home. A true hero.This is a great book and a fast read. One worthy of your time if you are a big Vietnam non-fiction fan.

Well written reflecting a different time...a time when America was at war both abroad and at home. The life of an 11B 1967-1970 were very difficult and those who survive must live on for those who did not...PS: I have stayed at the Caravalle Hotel/Saigon..and the rooftop bar/restaurant is still there but with out Spooky working the suburbs...

Unbelievable what these young men go through. In this book the author tells it exactly how it was for him emotionally every minute of every day and every night - through thick and thin - to hell and back. How they return with even an ounce of sanity in their souls is beyond me. Seems to me this

should be recommended reading for high school history classes, required reading for college students and the rest of us should read what these men have to say because most of us probably don't have a clue what being in the heart of a war - in a life or death situation - is really like at all. People need to know who is fighting for freedom world-wide and the consequences of those wars. FYI - I am doing a cut and paste of this review onto my review for "Hill 488" because they are both the same type of book and I have the same high opinion of both of them.

Acceptable Loss is an awesome story!! I especially liked reading about the secret insertions into "no man's land" as the five-man LRRP teams operated without any support. It is edge of your seat suspense when these small groups are unknowingly trapped between large enemy forces and have to make their way to the pick-up point, precisely on time, or they will be left behind! After several of these encounters, I can see why Mr. Jorgenson transferred to the Blues. However, it wasn't any easier there as these volunteers knew they were headed for battle when the call came for help. I am also a Vietnam Infantry veteran and author, and can relate to those instances when the author walked point, as I did for much of my tour; much of it hit home. There is nothing glorified about war, and Kregg was able to show this all through his novel. I truly enjoyed his story. It was very easy to read, and made me feel like I was right there beside him; heart pounding and wondering if we were going to survive. Acceptable loss kept me up a little longer than I should have on some nights, but I found myself yearning for it upon my return home the next evening. Acceptable Loss deserves five stars and a place within the top twenty of my all time best Vietnam novels. Great job Kregg! John Podlaski, author of Cherries - A Vietnam War Novel

Instead of detailing battles Mr. Jorgenson details his thoughts and feelings about his general situation in Viet Nam. I realize he was only 18 years old during this time but many of his actions cause me not to like him very much by the end of the book. If you are looking for a battle action book this one is not for you. If you're interested in the emotional aspect of an 18 year old going to war this book will be appealing.

The insights provided by the author are the most authentic I have read. For sure his maturity as he wrote this decades after he lived it informed the thoughts he expresses as contemporaneous to the action but much of what he says he thought and felt found its way into those of us who made the same journey. I doubt very much that men who did not share the experience of close combat will appreciate Kregg Jorgenson's book: the REMFs will either act as though they do or those who were

political will take parts of it to "validate" their beliefs. I came into country in early 1966 as a Marine 2d Lt and left in August '68 as a Captain. Although I spent all of my time as a platoon leader and then company commander in I Corps, I spent very little time on point. The hold the war got on many of us, the addiction to it was compelling, dark and inexplicable to others. The politics and "big picture" were irrelevant: our reality was the Now, within a very small area. If you were there, read this book. Tom Eagen

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