"Fort Chastity, Vietnam, 1969" book

Bernadette J. Harrod RN

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"Fort Chastity, Vietnam, 1969" book

**Description**
Bernadette Harrod, of Braintree, MA, wrote this collection of poems and letters home. She tells the story of a 14-month tour of duty, nursing in a combat zone. The picture on the cover is Bernadette at age 24.

Her son, Peter Harrod, contributed it to be photographed.

From book jacket: "We are more than a fistful of women."

**Publication Date**
2015

**Keywords**
memoir, nursing history, women in military service, Vietnam War, women's studies

**Disciplines**
American Material Culture | Archival Science | Cultural History | Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | History of Science, Technology, and Medicine | Industrial and Product Design | Medical Humanities | Medicine and Health | Military and Veterans Studies | Military History | Nonfiction | Nursing | Women's History

**Contributor**
Peter Harrod

**Photographer**
Ethan Bickford

**Publisher**
iUniverse

**ISBN**
9781491773956

**Comments**
The book is out of print, but the ebook is available through Google Play.
All the nurses who served in Vietnam were victims of war. Our country was too willing to forget. We saw firsthand the horrors and the cost of that conflict, in intensive care units, operating rooms, and on wards. The endless stream of multiple fragment wounds, burns, and amputees haunts us to this day. Whenever I am under stress or undergoing a loss or change, a vivid Vietnam dream reoccurs, reminding me of my powerlessness over uncontrollable situations in my life.

We are more than a fistful of women. Approximately eleven thousand women served during the Vietnam conflict. Yet the Department of Defense neither keeps records of female veterans nor does any official studies on readjustment problems among them. The Veterans Administration offers women little or no medical or psychological assistance. According to the few studies conducted, 20 percent of women who served suffer from flashbacks, depression, alcoholism, and serious emotional, marital, and professional difficulties, according to the book Commemorative of the Vietnamese Women’s Memorial.

My heart will always quicken whenever there is a helicopter overhead. No one can see all that I saw—the pain, the massive rejection from my country—and go away unscathed and unscarred.

It was a dirty little war, and no one wanted to be identified with it. When I came home everyone was anti-Vietnam, so I went undercover. I didn’t talk about it. Isolation and denial became my coping style too. But I was plagued.
Fort Chastity, Vietnam, 1969: A Nurse’s Story of the Vietnam War  
—Bernadette J. Harrod, RN

BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

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