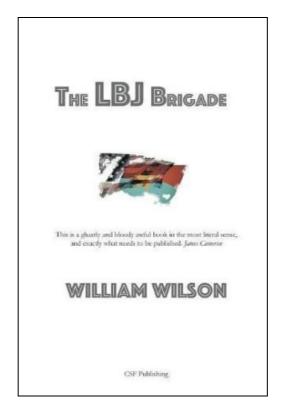
The LBJ Brigade (Paperback)



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Reviews

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(Gordon Kertzmann)

THE LBJ BRIGADE (PAPERBACK)



CSF Publishing, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This is an extraordinary book, and well worth tracking down. You see, the problem with our perceptions of Vietnam is that we ve all been infected by the Hollywood version--all that Deer Hunter, Full Platoon and Apocalypse stuff--which was constructed only after America was beaten, and was essentially an attempt by a liberal artistic establishment to explain both why the US ever embarked on such an inexcusably imperialist endeavor, and why the world s most expensive fighting machine was so humiliated. Partly because all the movies were made retrospectively, and partly because the defeat was so comprehensive, so overwhelming, it has all come to seem inevitable. Which is why you need to read this novel. Much of its familiar stuff, but it was written at a time when the possibility of stopping communism dead in its tracks was plausible. And that uncertainty about how the enterprise was going to end changes everything. The story is straightforward. An American kid gets drafted, happily goes to Nam to fight for his country and for democracy, finds himself in a deeply hostile environment, and meets in particular both a cynical US veteran and a North Vietnamese ideologue. The former teaches him lessons in survival: There ain t no right or wrong out here. Livin is the only thing that counts. We re white men fightin colored men. That makes it a race-war. Forget that un you re dead. This ain t Paris, kid, it s Asia. Ain t nobody on your side cept yourself.



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