



In the Lake of the Woods

By Tim O'Brien

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First published to critical acclaim by Houghton Mifflin, Tim O'Brien's celebrated classic *In the Lake of the Woods* now returns to the house in a gorgeous new Mariner paperback edition. This riveting novel of love and mystery from the author of *The Things They Carried* examines the lasting impact of the twentieth century's legacy of violence and warfare, both at home and abroad. When long-hidden secrets about the atrocities he committed in Vietnam come to light, a candidate for the U.S. Senate retreats with his wife to a lakeside cabin in northern Minnesota. Within days of their arrival, his wife mysteriously vanishes into the watery wilderness.

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In the Lake of the Woods By Tim O'Brien Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Tim O'Brien has been writing about Vietnam in one way or another ever since he served there as an infantryman in the late 1960s. His earliest work on the subject, *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, was an intensely personal memoir of his own tour of duty; his books since then have featured many of the same elements of fear, boredom, and moral ambiguity but in a fictional setting. In 1994 O'Brien wrote *In the Lake of the Woods*, a novel that, while imbued with the troubled spirit of Vietnam, takes place entirely after the war and in the United States. The main character, John Wade, is a man in crisis: after spending years building a successful political career, he finds his future derailed during a bid for the U.S. Senate by revelations about his past as a soldier in Vietnam. The election lost by a landslide, John and his wife, Kathy, retreat to a small cabin on the shores of a Minnesota lake--from which Kathy mysteriously disappears.

Was she murdered? Did she run away? Instead of answering these questions, O'Brien raises even more as he slowly reveals past lives and long-hidden secrets. Included in this third-person narrative are "interviews" with the couple's friends and family as well as footnoted excerpts from a mix of fictionalized newspaper reports on the case and real reports pertaining to historical events--a mélange that lends the novel an eerie sense of verisimilitude. If Kathy's disappearance is at the heart of this work, then John's involvement in a My Lai-type massacre in Vietnam is its core, and O'Brien uses it to demonstrate how wars don't necessarily end when governments say they do. *In the Lake of the Woods* may not be true, but it *feels* true--and for Tim O'Brien, that's true enough. --Alix Wilber

From Publishers Weekly

A politician's career is ruined overnight by revelations of his wartime participation in a village massacre in Vietnam while his personal life is undone by the sudden disappearance of his wife.

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From Library Journal

O'Brien, winner of a National Book Award for *Going After Cacciato* (1978), has written his most accessible novel to date. John and Kathy Wade are a young, idealistic couple living the American Dream until John's bid for the U.S. Senate is trashed by media reports of his involvement in the infamous massacre at My Lai during the Vietnam War. Still very much in love but without direction for the first time in their marriage, John and Kathy flee to a remote cabin. When Kathy disappears without a trace, a massive but fruitless search ensues. Did John murder her or did she simply flee? O'Brien develops several maddeningly plausible explanations, allowing readers to draw their own conclusions in this dark but wonderful novel that should gain him a host of new fans. For fiction collections both large and small.

--Mark Annichiarico, "Library Journal"

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Shetler:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They can

be reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will require this In the Lake of the Woods.

Hazel Freese:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book could be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled In the Lake of the Woods can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Ann Strickland:

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