

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF FALLEN ANGELS

Uncertain of his future goals, seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, a black high school graduate from Harlem, travels to Vietnam to fight in the United States Army. When Richie leaves basic training for Vietnam, he harbors a host of illusions about the war and the army. He confidently believes that the medical profile he has received for a knee injury will be properly processed and will prevent him from engaging in combat.

Richie searches for meaning in the war and his own sense of self. He struggles to unravel his motivations for enlisting in the army, wondering whether his reason is a selfless one, based on the desire to earn money to provide for Kenny, or a selfish one, simply to escape from the hard life he faces in Harlem. Though he is highly intelligent and highly motivated and has ambitions to become a writer, his family is too poor to send him to college. Richie is afraid that without education he has no career potential, and he is unsure what he has to look forward to if he survives.

After replacement of the squad leader, now the squad is placed under the command of one of its own soldiers, Corporal Brunner. Brunner leads the men on a deadly mission to track down a group of Vietcong, North Vietnamese guerilla forces along a river. After a series of mistakes and miscalculations, a firefight breaks out, leaving both Richie and Peewee wounded. Richie's medical profile is finally processed while he is recovering, and Peewee's wounds are serious enough to earn him a discharge from the army. Peewee and Richie fly home on the same plane, along with caskets containing dead soldiers. They try to stand tall for the new recruits, who are just arriving in Vietnam.

BIOGRAPHY OF WALTER DEAN MYERS

Walter Dean Myers was born in Martinsburg, West Virginia in 1937. He is the acclaimed author of Monster, the first winner of the Michael L. Printz Award, a National Book Award Finalist, Coretta Scott King Honor Book, and Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book; The Dream Bearer; Handbook for Boys; Bad Boys: A Memoir; and the Newberry Honor Books Scorpions and Somewhere In The Darkness. His picture books include Jane Addams Children' s Book Award winner Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam. His brother, Christopher Myers, helped establish the Walter Dean Myers Publishing Institute, part of the Langston Hughes Children' s Literature Festival, and makes frequent appearances with the National Basketball Association' s "Read to Achieve" program. Myers lives with his family in Jersey City, New Jersey.