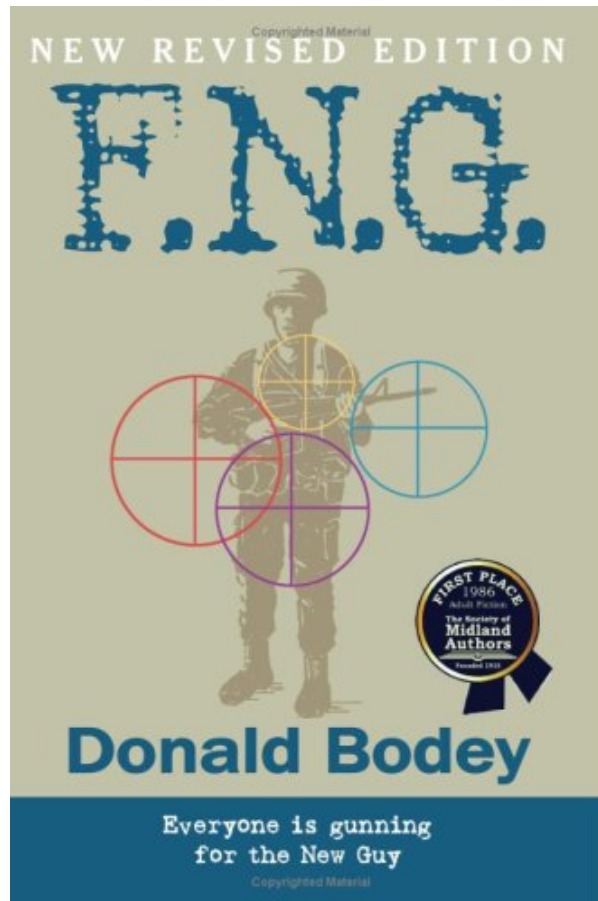
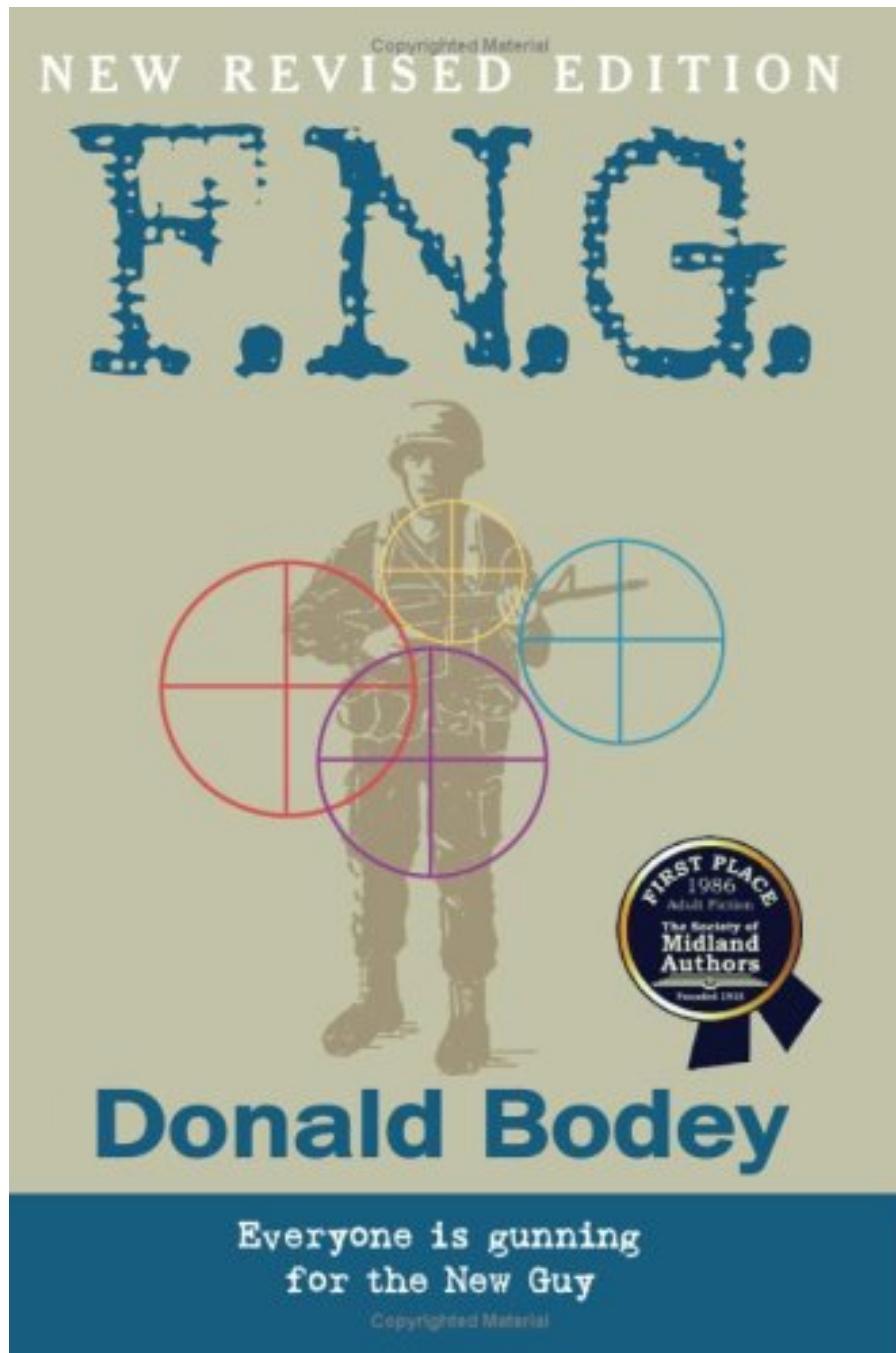


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# **F.N.G., REVISED EDITION BY DONALD BODEY PDF**

Everyone is gunning for the New Guy

Gabriel Sauers of Two Squad is a soldier, newly arrived in Vietnam--a country too beautiful to invite so savagely unreal a war. But Gabriel won't be a New Guy for long. He'll go through incoming mortars, he'll see the enemy alive. He'll wander through a hell that will turn the green recruit lucky enough to survive into a death-hardened veteran, longing for nothing more than a return to the world of hot baths and cold beer, no bullets, and no noise. Now, 40 years later, he is grappling with an action on the verge of his grandson Seth's deployment to Iraq that will change both their lives forever.

Critics Praise Don Bodey's F.N.G

"One of the most hard-hitting of all the vietnam novels" -- The Boston Herald

"A powerful social document and a well-written, deeply moving first novel...highly recommended" --The Library Journal "Raw, profane...a candidly moving portrayal of the average American soldier in Vietnam, who often found courage when he did not seek it--but little of anything else." --Chicago Sun-Times

"The day to day grind, beautifully and touchingly rendered by...a Vietnam veteran, is told with an unrelenting accumulation of detail." --The New York Times Book Review

"Bodey packs considerable emotional freight...into a style that remains deliberately supple, cool, and declarative...An impressive novel." --The Cleveland Plain Dealer

"A harrowing vividly written account of hell with a leavening of light moments. A revelation for one who wasn't there. Painful for those who were." -Bob Mason, author of CHICKENHAWK

"All Quiet on the Western Front drives its readers to the front of World War I. F.N.G helicopters its readers to a new front: Vietnam." -Bestsellers

More info at [www.DonBodey.com](http://www.DonBodey.com)

The Reflections of History Series from Modern History Press [www.ModernHistoryPress.com](http://www.ModernHistoryPress.com)

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#### EXCELLENT VIETNAM WAR NOVEL WITH TIMELY TWIST

By Tyler R. Tichelaar

Donald Bodey's Vietnam War novel F.N.G. is a powerful, engaging story about one man's tour of duty. While many Vietnam Veterans have come forward in recent years to tell their stories, Bodey chose not to write an autobiographical account, but specifically, a novel based on his experiences. While few ex-soldiers could masterfully write a novel of war, Bodey's skill has created for the Vietnam War what Erich Maria Remarque accomplished for World War I in *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

At the center of Bodey's novel is Gabriel Saunders, the "F.N.G." (F---g New Guy). Gabriel has been drafted into the army, and when he arrives in Vietnam, he is scared and unsure of himself. To make matters worse, he has the horrendous experience of seeing his newly made friend killed before his eyes the first day he arrives. From there, the reader is taken through Gabriel's tour of duty over the course of a year as he matures as a soldier, going from being the new guy to the leader of his squad. Vietnam soldiers were transitioned in and out of their units, rather than all arriving together, so as new soldiers came in, old soldiers left, thereby continually rotating so the squad always had some seasoned soldiers and some FNG's. The effect of this rotation is new soldiers having more experienced ones to learn from, but it also means seasoned soldiers are the envy of new ones. Bodey emphasizes the psychological weight of their remaining time on the soldiers, who always knew to the day how much time they had left, and how they pondered their chances of surviving a certain number of days.

This 2007 publication of F.N.G. is Loving Healing Press's revised and expanded version of the original 1987 novel. The revised edition's major change is the immensely effective opening chapter of the novel, set in the present day during the War in Iraq. In this chapter, Gabriel, returned from Vietnam for over thirty years, is going hunting with his grandson, Seth. Gabriel is angry that his grandson will soon be leaving to serve in Iraq. Gabriel knows war's horrors and does not want Seth to have the same traumatic experiences. Unknown to Seth, Gabriel is contemplating shooting his grandson--just enough to wound him so he cannot be sent to Iraq. Gabriel would rather see his grandson limp the rest of his life than suffer the far greater psychological and physical hell of war. That a man would intentionally hurt his grandson as a way to protect him is far more than a clever plot device. It makes readers consider whether in Gabriel's shoes, having undergone his own war experiences, they would not do the same to protect a loved one.

I will not spoil the story by revealing whether Gabriel goes through with injuring his grandson, but after reading the rest of the novel, Gabriel's motivations are clearly understood. While F.N.G. does not have much of a plot, its strength lies in its descriptive, realistic character depictions. The details of a soldier's life are presented with gritty realism intermixed with humor. The reader comes away with a real sense of the camaraderie so vital for survival among soldiers. The novel's dramatic conclusion provides a strong example of how war affects a soldier. While post-traumatic stress disorder is a term well known today, few authors have portrayed it so effectively; Gabriel comes to realize something has changed within him, something he cannot yet define but which he knows will haunt him. Donald Bodey, himself a Vietnam soldier, has captured his personal experiences in fiction, never seeking to be sensational or sentimental, but rather to depict the Vietnam War realistically. The author [...] provides additional information about F.N.G., including a glossary of Vietnam War terms.

F.N.G. is a book everyone would benefit from reading, especially families of military men and women, so they will understand what their loved ones go through. Members of the US military and US government

should also read it to understand what happens to those the government sends to war, especially wars where it is questionable whether the United States should be involved. Very few war novels would receive such a recommendation from me.

- Tyler R. Tichelaar, Ph.D. author of The Marquette Trilogy

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

War is Hell in this Nam Novel!

By W.H. McDonald Jr.

Author Donald Bodey has crafted a true Vietnam War classic that captures what being a grunt was all about. His revised novel " F.N.G." has even added a new twist to the old war novel genre as the book's hero considers shooting his grandson - thus wounding him and preventing him from going off to this war in Iraq! The whole book is fresh, which is very difficult to do considering all the books, and movies that have been written on the war in Nam.

Bodey has a writing style that makes even something as simple as the rain falling feel real. He has created drama and great entertainment in this thrilling fictional account of war that often at times, feels as if you are reading someone's autobiography.

Readers may find their hearts beating a little faster, or a experience a moist eye, or even feel a slight pang of fear creeping up their spine while devouring this book. It flows with both action and powerful emotions. This is the kind of book that could become a huge Hollywood blockbuster as a movie. This book is really that good!

If you were only going to read just one novel about the Vietnam War then this would be my choice and my recommendation! It is a most compelling account and will not an easy book to forget or put down.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

FGB

By Allen L. Peters

I read this book when it first came out in the 80's, liked it then and having reread it, like it even more now. I will have to admit that I know the author, but if I didn't like the book, I wouldn't write a bad review, I just wouldn't write anything.

I think this is a F&^%\*# Good Book. First person is tough to make work for an entire novel, and Don's editor/publisher tried to have him abandon it until they read further into the book. It is a straight forward and honest novel with truth on every page. It is not a political tract which only increases both its truth and honesty.

One thing I especially like are Don's metaphors. They are wonderfully descriptive and within the voice of a house painter/draftee. They help make the strangness of war part of the reader's everyday as it became so for the protagonist, Gabe. The new introductory story is of a piece with the original book, and I hope Don works this story into another novel.

If you haven't yet, buy and read this book, but even if you bought and read it before, do it again. You'll thank me for the suggestion.

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