



Going After Cacciato

By Tim O'Brien

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"To call *Going After Cacciato* a novel about war is like calling *Moby Dick* a novel about whales."

So wrote *The New York Times* of Tim O'Brien's now classic novel of Vietnam. Winner of the 1979 National Book Award, *Going After Cacciato* captures the peculiar blend of horror and hallucinatory comedy that marked this strangest of wars. Reality and fantasy merge in this fictional account of one private's sudden decision to lay down his rifle and begin a quixotic journey from the jungles of Indochina to the streets of Paris. Will Cacciato make it all the way? Or will he be yet another casualty of a conflict that seems to have no end? In its memorable evocation of men both fleeing and meeting the demands of battle, *Going After Cacciato* stands as much more than just a great war novel. Ultimately it's about the forces of fear and heroism that do battle in the hearts of us all.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Going After Cacciato By Tim O'Brien Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"In October, near the end of the month, Cacciato left the war."

In Tim O'Brien's novel *Going After Cacciato* the theater of war becomes the theater of the absurd as a private deserts his post in Vietnam, intent on walking 8,000 miles to Paris for the peace talks. The remaining members of his squad are sent after him, but what happens then is anybody's guess: "The facts were simple: They went after Cacciato, they chased him into the mountains, they tried hard. They cornered him on a small grassy hill. They surrounded the hill. They waited through the night. And at dawn they shot the sky full of flares and then they moved in.... That was the end of it. The last known fact. What remained were possibilities."

It is these possibilities that make O'Brien's National Book Award-winning novel so extraordinary. Told from the perspective of squad member Paul Berlin, the search for Cacciato soon enters the realm of the surreal as the men find themselves following an elusive trail of chocolate M&M's through the jungles of Indochina, across India, Iran, Greece, and Yugoslavia to the streets of Paris. The details of this hallucinatory journey alternate with feverish memories of the war--men maimed by landmines, killed in tunnels, engaged in casual acts of brutality that would be unthinkable anywhere else. Reminiscent of Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, *Going After Cacciato* dishes up a brilliant mix of ferocious comedy and bleak horror that serves to illuminate both the complex psychology of men in battle and the overarching insanity of war. --Alix Wilber

Review

"Simply put, the best novel written about the war. I do not know . . . any writer, journalist, or novelist who does not concede that position to O'Brien's **Going After Cacciato**."

--*Miami Herald*

"A novel of great beauty and importance."

--*Boston Globe*

"Stark . . . rhapsodic. . . . It is a canvas painted vividly, hauntingly, disturbingly by Tim O'Brien."

--*Los Angeles Times*

"As a fictional portrait of this war, **Going After Cacciato** is hard to fault, and will be hard to better."

--John Updike, *The New Yorker*

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From the Publisher

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"Stark... rhapsodic... brilliant... it is a canvas painted vividly, hauntingly, disturbingly by Tim O'Brien." -- *Los Angeles Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brenda Wright:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will need this *Going After Cacciato*.

Clara Palmer:

Throughout other case, little men and women like to read book *Going After Cacciato*. You can choose the best book if you'd prefer reading a book. Given that we know about how is important the book *Going After Cacciato*. You can add know-how and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, simply because from book you can know everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple thing until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, we could open a book or perhaps searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel bored stiff to go to the library. Let's examine.

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Stacia Cobb:

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