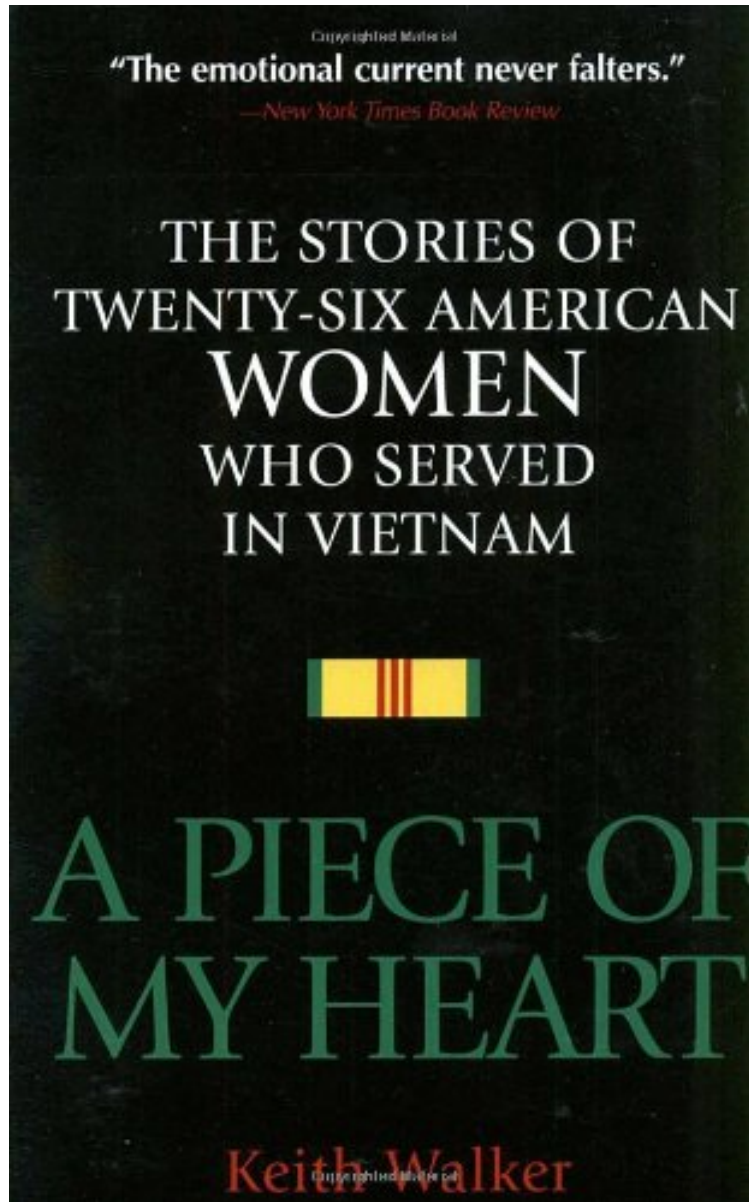


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## A Piece of My Heart: The Stories of 26 American Women Who Served in Vietnam

Keith Walker

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#831276 in Books Presidio Press 1997-02-05 1997-02-05Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.47 x .89 x 5.53l, 1.00 #File Name: 089141617X400 pages | File size: 67.Mb

**Keith Walker : A Piece of My Heart: The Stories of 26 American Women Who Served in Vietnam** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Piece of My Heart: The Stories of 26 American Women Who Served in Vietnam:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. It's a OK book and I learned some things of how tough the lives were of the woman there. By GG The stories about the nurses were interesting and how hectic their lives were. Especially how long their days were and trying to do the impossible in taking care of the wounded and coming back home not treated with the respect for the skills they possessed and could use in their new jobs in hospitals across the USA. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I LOVED this book By Enjoying His Glory I LOVED this book. I was in approximately junior high during Vietnam. I have memories of the TV news and 2 older brothers I worried about getting drafted. But to read first person accounts filled in so many blanks for me. I applaud the editor's ability to reach women vets to encourage them to share their stories. They represent women serving in many different jobs and many different voices yet there are several common threads tying their experiences together. A well done, unique immersion into that time in America's life. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Read By Customer This is a heart wrenching story told by the women who lived it. Told with pathos and humor, 26 women look back and remember their time of service during the Vietnam war. Each story starts before they actually arrive in Vietnam. Then they tell their most memorable experiences. Then we are told about their lives after their tour of duty and how it has touched their lives forever. A real eye opener. There are stories of women who stood on both sides of the conflict. Some protested the war before going over and some protested after. With a foreword by Martha Raye who entertained and nursed the troupes and was even wounded on more than one occasion. No matter what your political opinions are, you will be touched by these stories.

Records the memories of a war in the words of those women courageous enough to walk into hell. --San Francisco Chronicle

.com A decade after America pulled out of Vietnam, the seeds of the often heart-wrenching oral history, *A Piece of My Heart*, were sown when writer and filmmaker Keith Walker met a woman who had been an emergency room nurse in Cu Chi and Da Nang. She and 25 others recount the time they spent "in country" as part of 15,000 American women who volunteered or served as nurses and in the military. After working on too many mutilated young men, one nurse tells of wanting to ask her mother to "check around and see if she could find one whole eighteen-year-old." Like male veterans, many returned with post-traumatic stress disorder. They found it hard to shake the numbness that made a war zone bearable or to settle into a life minus manic highs and lows. "The one thing Nam did for me was that I felt like I could walk on water," says a nurse, a conviction that made later jobs seem worthless or impossibly bland. From Publishers Weekly Some 15,000 American women served in Vietnam during the war. As one of them remarks in this collection of extended monologues, "The war really did a number on all of us, the women as well as the men." Despite sexual harassment, ambiguous feelings about the Vietnamese and traumatic combat-zone experiences, the women whose voices are heard here recall their wartime service in a generally positive light. Most of them were military nurses and WACs, but there are also Red Cross and USO volunteers, as well as a civilian flight attendant and a radio personality named Chris Noel, whose voice was familiar to thousands of homesick GIs. No great revelations or insights here; despite the book's twist of focusing on servicewomen, it's all rather predictable. Photos. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, is a term that appears often in this collection of interviews of women who served for one agency or another in Vietnam. Other terms recur, too: DERS, hooches, IVs, the "Pandora's Box" that some of the women fear will be opened if they recall all they went through. Walker estimates that more than 15,000 women served in Vietnam, the majority of them military nurses and volunteers for the Red Cross, the USO, etc. The lesson from their words is that even the most casual contact with war has a devastating effect. There have been many oral histories of the war; some are more poignant, most certainly more graphically sanguinary, but none is more informative or evocative of the era. For women's studies, medical, and Vietnam War collections. Mel D. Lane, Sacramento, Cal. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.