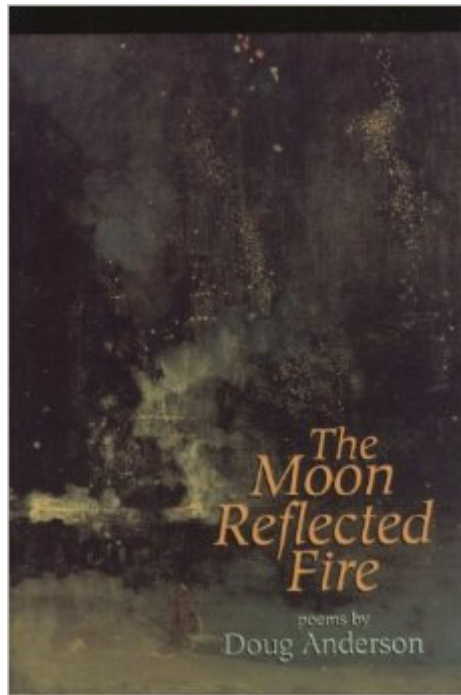


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# The Moon Reflected Fire



## Synopsis

Of The Moon Reflected Fire and its subject, the Vietnam War, poet James Tate writes: "These are trenchant, wrenching poems. With artistry and honesty they perform an inquest into war and its corrosive after effects."

## Book Information

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Alice James Books; First Edition edition (November 1, 1994)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This isn't just some of the best poetry from the Viet Nam war. It's some of the best war poetry ever written--not just for the truths it tells, but also for the power and craft of the telling, and its generous range. Anderson brings the brutality of war into vivid relief against the setting in which it occurs: The way he made that corpse dance/ by emptying one magazine after another into it/ and the way the corpse's face began to peel off/ like a mask because the skull had been shattered, brains/ spilled out, but he couldn't stop killing that corpse. A treeline opens into paddies/quartered by dikes, a moon in each,/ and in the center, the hedged island of a village/ floats in its own time, ribboned with smoke. Someone is cooking fish./ Whispers move across the water.He tells of soldiers during lulls before combat: Things live in my hair. I do not bathe./ I have thrown away my underwear./ I have forgotten the why of everything./ I sense an indifference larger than anything/ I know. All that will remain of us/ is rusting metal disappearing in vines... A black snake slides off the paddy dike/ into the water and makes the moon shiver.He tells of combat: the man in front of me steps on a mine,/loses both legs at the hip, and that's not all...And a survivor's life back home: I'm like a country who can't remember the last war./ Well, that's not strictly true./ It's just been too long./ Too

long and my heart is like/ a house for sale in a lot full of weeds... Used to be I'd get a bottle/ and drink until the lights went out/ but now I carry my pain around everywhere I go/ because I'm afraid/ I might put it down somewhere and lose it.

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