

First Light (Paperback)



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Reviews

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FIRST LIGHT (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.A very different military novel. FIRST LIGHT is the story of Kenneth McKenzie, faced with conflicting issues of duty and responsibility as an infantry platoon leader. Its as if the Graduate has joined the army and is confronted with All Quiet on the Western Front. The chain of command demands adherence to orders but McKenzie soon finds his soldiers need protection from the fealty he owes to superior officers. Like most battalion commanders in 1968, Colonel Fishmuth, commissioned after Korea, having never led a platoon or company into combat, is in command of a full battalion of four line companies and a recon platoon. This is his only war. First light is that discreet time of morning when dawn breaks apart the dangerous night. Soldiers are tempted to relax although it is the most dangerous time; the time when a cunning enemy likes to attack. McKenzie must learn how to be a leader of kid soldiers and deal with his own fears. FIRST LIGHT becomes a metaphor for his own journey to discover who in the chain of command above him is dangerous and when duty trumps loyalty to his troops. McKenzie volunteers to go to Vietnam early to secure a guarantee he will be assigned to the First Air Cavalry Division, a premier fighting unit in Vietnam, foregoing any other training such as jungle, ranger or airborne schools. He intends to rely on his country upbringing and common sense, a position that he soon discovers is maligned by most career officers. When McKenzie is assigned to Delta Company, 1st of the 5th, the battalion commander, Colonel Fishmuth, greets him with disdain because McKenzie is...



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