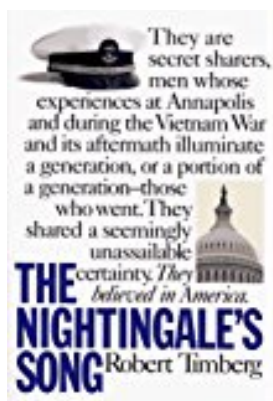


# [PDF] The Nightingale's Song

Robert Timberg - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: The Nightingale's Song  
Author: Robert Timberg  
Released: 1995-07-01  
Language:  
Pages: 543  
ISBN: 0684803011  
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ASIN: 0684803011

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## Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** This sprawling but often engrossing book takes a close look at the intersecting careers of five politically powerful Americans haunted by the legacy of the Vietnam War. Robert McFarlane and John Poindexter served as national security advisers, with Oliver North as their aide; John McCain, having survived five years in a Vietnamese POW camp, was elected to the U.S. Senate; James Webb, acclaimed novelist (*Fields of Fire*), became secretary of the navy. All five rose to prominence during the Reagan administration; all five were graduates of the Naval Academy; all five were significantly affected by the war in Vietnam. Timberg presents a rounded portrait of each: McFarlane's moral rigidity in the face of Washington's situation ethics; Poindexter's colorless persona and reaction to the dynamics of Iran-Contra; North's dazzling charisma ("Holly Golightly in

Marine green"); McCain's stoic courage throughout his captivity; Webb's combat heroics, his struggle to become a writer, his controversial stint in the Pentagon. Timberg is scathing in his remarks about President Reagan's competency but dilates eloquently on the significance of Reagan's public admiration of Vietnam veterans. An Annapolis graduate who served in Vietnam, Timberg is deputy bureau chief of the Baltimore Sun. Reader's Digest Condensed Books selection. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

**From** Overtly the life stories of five graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy--John McCain, John Poindexter, Bud McFarlane, Jim Webb, and Oliver North--this probing tale implicitly examines the academy's institutional soul. A survivor of Annapolis, abbreviated by cognoscenti as IHTFP (I Hate This F . . . ing Place), Timberg knowingly examines how the academy indoctrinated undergraduates in the '50s and '60s. All five men saluted and went to Vietnam--three were wounded--and in Timberg's telling of their specific combat experiences, insightful angles on their subsequent careers emerge, such as North's penchant for exaggeration. When the Iran-Contra affair broke, its Watergate motif gradually became displaced by the old passions surrounding Vietnam, which, as Timberg writes, cropped up in the actions and justifications of Reagan's national security advisers McFarlane and Poindexter and their aide North. In the meantime ex-POW McCain had gotten himself elected to Congress, and Webb became a novelist, secretary of the navy (ironically staging his induction at the academy he used to hate), and promoter of adding a statue to the stark Vietnam Memorial. A well-researched and well-written account of five interesting lives. *Gilbert Taylor*

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