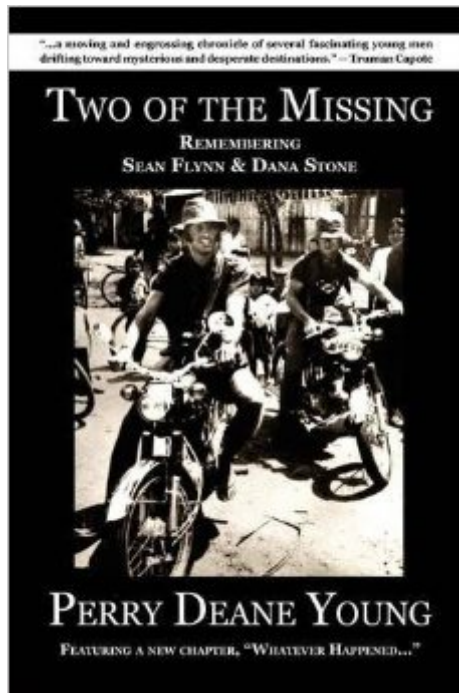


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Two Of The Missing: Remembering Sean Flynn And Dana Stone



Synopsis

On April 6, 1970, Vietnam War photojournalists Sean Flynn (son of Errol Flynn) and Dana Stone set off on two rented motorcycles to cover one last story and were captured by Communist forces, never to be seen or heard from again. Their friend and fellow journalist, Perry Deane Young, tells their story here in a remarkable memoir first published in 1975. This new Press 53 Classics edition features photos by Flynn, Stone, their friends Tim Page, Nik Wheeler, and others, including a new chapter with updates on the lives of those involved and the ongoing search for two of the missing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was written in the mid-1970s and mainly concerns the lives of photojournalists Sean Flynn and Dana Stone. They were captured in Cambodia in April 1970 while taking what was clearly a foolish risk of approaching a Viet Cong roadblock. They are assumed to have died in captivity. I first read an account of Sean, Dana, and Tim Page (who also figures in the narrative) in Michael Herr's "Dispatches" and searched for this book for many years. (My tag line comes from Herr's comment about Vietnam being, for this group, "the happy childhood they never had.") Now, fortunately, the book is back in print. Those interested in the lives of the members of the journalistic community who become "war junkies" in Vietnam will find this a compelling read. Perry Deane Young probes the lives of Sean and Dana along with his own war experiences. He does not shrink from portraying his subjects as sometimes not particularly likeable. And he grapples with the fact that the members of this band of photographer brothers were caught in as many contradictions as

the war they covered: they had to project the proper "war is hell" stance, but at the same time they were hopelessly enmeshed in the romance of being young (non-combatant) participants in an exhilarating adventure in an exotic land. And there lies the rub: Young returned to Vietnam during the last stages of the American involvement as a coda for his book. He writes of being upset at the human damage (mutilated Vietnamese veterans begging on the streets) as if it were a personal affront to his memories of the great times he had half a dozen years before. But that, after all, is simply a reflection of the honesty that permeates this account. The new edition includes a "What happened to..." chapter. Add this to the list of books that help illustrate how America, in its perpetual haste to forget its past, seems doomed to never learn any lessons from its foreign misadventures.

This is an excellent book concerning the disappearance of Sean Flynn and Dana Stone, two photojournalist friends of the author, during the Vietnam war. Young provides a detailed backstory, through interviews with childhood friends, family and acquaintances, that fleshes out the memoir, giving insights as to the kind of men Flynn and Stone were. The central piece of the book revolves around Vietnam, where the three men cross paths, become friends and indulge in experiences that shape their lives. It is obvious that Vietnam and all it entails resonates still with Perry Dean Young; however his feelings aren't excessively nostalgic, as he constantly makes one aware of the incredible suffering going on at that time. The writing is polished and insightful, yet Young never pretends to know all the answers to the big questions, choosing instead to concentrate on the human elements of companionship, loyalty and the joys of shared experience. So many interesting characters drift in and out of the story, adding richness and diversity to the tale, with Tim Page in particular coming across as the ultimate '60s character. How ironic that this exemplar of counterculture hedonism not only survived the war, but has prospered since: it is hard to believe that Tim "there's an airstrike after you" Page is with us still, whereas Flynn and Stone are consigned to an unknown fate. Young updates the book with a "where are they now" chapter, which fills in some gaps and offers an especially sad retelling of Louise Stone's subsequent life: her pain at losing her husband practically seeps off the pages. The book is well packaged with many photos of Flynn, Stone and their Tu Do Street pals, and for anyone interested in the Vietnam experience I thoroughly recommend it.

I have read other books and documents regarding Sean Flynn and Dana Stone - yet this is the first book I have come across where I feel like I actually now know some of the deeper layers that made them the people they were. This was made possible by the fact that the author Perry Deane Young

knew Flynn and Stone personally. Also, Young provided excellent personal insights, including extracts from letters Flynn and Stone wrote, details of where they grew up and lived at various stages of their lives, and comments from family members. This is in addition to many of Young's own experiences with both Flynn and Stone in Vietnam. It is not often that a reader is treated to such a full account of events and Young certainly made this all the more complete by providing a new chapter in this edition of the book, which provides updates and details of current activities regarding himself and many of the other people who form part of this record, including the always colourful Tim Page. This book is the "must read" when it comes to forming an opinion regarding Sean Flynn and Dana Stone. Nicholas R.W. Henning - Australian Author

The author of this book resides in Chapel Hill, NC. I heard him on the local public radio station discussing this book and several others he has written. It was a pleasant surprise to find that I had ordered directly from the author via , and I was delighted to receive a signed copy! This memoir was out of print for several years before being recently reissued with an additional follow-up chapter. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in the Vietnam conflict or the role played by media in the conflict. The story of Flynn and Stone is intriguing and ultimately heartbreaking, but it is ultimately the author's depiction of both their unique personalities and the comradery they all shared in Vietnam that makes this a great read.

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