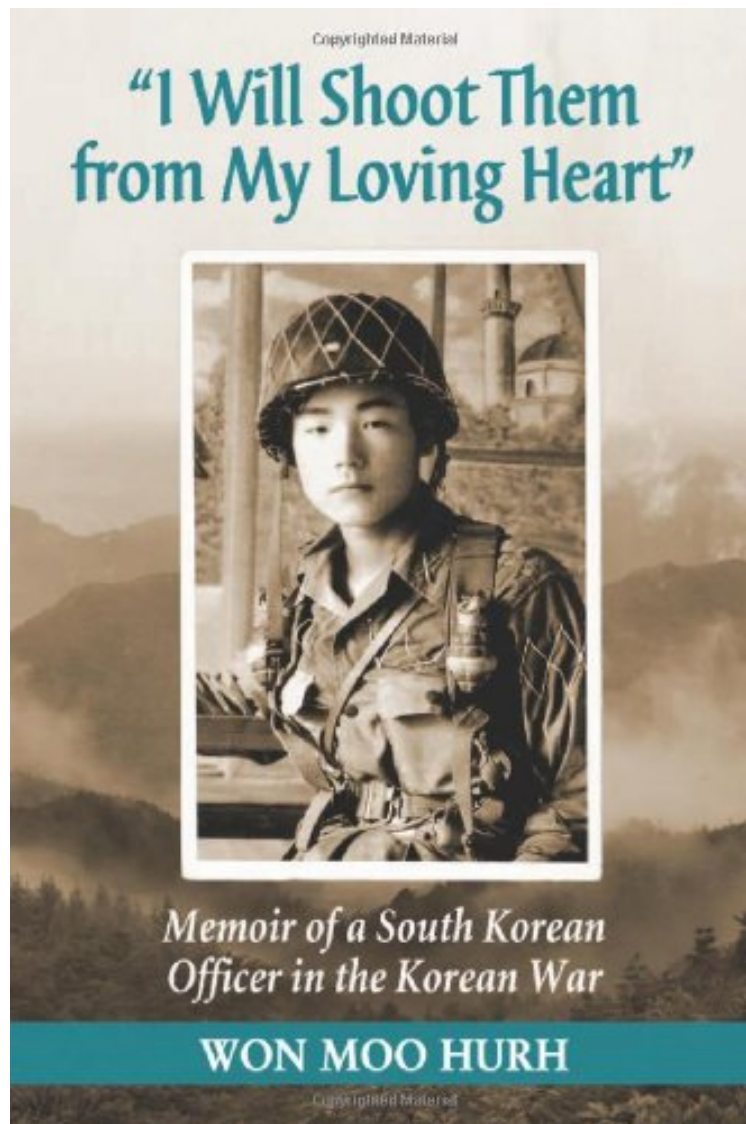


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## "I Will Shoot Them from My Loving Heart": Memoir of a South Korean Officer in the Korean War

*Won Moo Hurh*

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**Won Moo Hurh : "I Will Shoot Them from My Loving Heart": Memoir of a South Korean Officer in the Korean War** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "I Will Shoot Them from My Loving Heart": Memoir of a South Korean Officer in the Korean War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent memoir of the horrors of war By Timothy Mahrt An eye-

opening perspective of the horrors of war from a Korean person during the Korean war. Often discusses issues of family, camaraderie, and responsibility in the context of hopeless situations. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Review from My Loving Heart By Marilyn Voss If I were to select one word to associate with this gripping tale, it would be, "engrossing" to the max. One cannot finish a chapter without wanting/needing to continue to the next lest the cliff hanging denouement of events get lost in between. It is an absolute miracle that this author is still alive to tell his story of adversity from childhood to adult life. The philosophical aspects of the absurdity of war, and the thought provoking challenge of predestination vis a vis free will, sets a mental challenge for the reader to re-explore his thoughts and beliefs on both topics. The reader is also inspired to further explore the history of Korea, especially when the author relates his family tree connection to the early king and queen of the nation that has become modern day Korea. The writing style is concise and flowing so that the reader becomes deeply engrossed "from his loving heart." A five star read. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A pause for reflection for a new generation By Kenneth J. Mietus As a high school student in the late 1950's, I stumbled upon a copy of All Quiet on the Western Front - Remarque's tale of Paul Bäumer, a young German student who, by virtue of historical circumstance, is caught up in the tragedy of modern warfare. As a young student growing up in an era when my father's generation had claimed victory in WWII and who's older brothers and cousins had recently returned from the more ambiguous conclusion of the Korean War, Remarque's novel was a shock to my adolescent system. Exposure to popular films and the zeitgeist of the post WWII years in America, provided me and my peers with a view of warfare as a romantic and heroic adventure, an ennobling experience that elevates its participants to true manhood and patriotic purpose. Remarque's description of horses stumbling over their battle ravaged intestines and simple well intentioned young men being reduced to cannon fodder did, indeed, give me serious and lasting pause for reflection regarding the nature of war. Won Moo Hurh's I Will Shoot Them With My Loving Heart parallels Remarque's powerful presentation. Hurh provides a new generation of young Americans a compelling reason to pause and reflect upon the futile tragedy of modern warfare. The Korean War, often neglected in our literature and film, is told from a unique perspective, by a young artillery officer who served in the ROK army. Hurh's tale is masterfully told, a gripping story that provides a dynamic counterpoint between the bureaucratic structure of the ROK army and the poignant story of individual soldiers, family members and communities that are disrupted by the tragedy of war.

In the spring of 1950, 17-year-old South Korean high school senior Won Moo Hurh dreamed of studying law at Seoul National University after graduation. His life changed irrevocably on June 25 when North Korean forces invaded his homeland. After less than three months of training, Hurh was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army of the Republic of Korea and sent to the front, where the casualty rate for such junior officers could reach 60 percent. In this exceptional memoir, Hurh provides not only a descriptive chronicle of his wartime exploits, but also a social psychological exploration on the absurdity of war in general. Hurh's vivid remembrances bring to life the "forgotten" Korean War from the viewpoint of a Korean soldier, a perspective rarely available in English until now.

About the Author Won Moo Hurh attended Monmouth College in Illinois after the Korean War and received a Ph.D. in sociology and ethnology at the University of Heidelberg in Germany. He is a professor emeritus of sociology and anthropology at Western Illinois University and the author of five books.