

Hey Joe

A Call to Action

Whether it is the call of family ties and kinship, the call of “war upon the ruling classes” by socialist revolutionaries, the call of the U.S. Government to “defend the free world from Communism” or the call of world peace, *Hey Joe* encompasses them all.

The story is based around Jimi Thoirn, the son of ‘60s Social Revolutionaries, and his quest to find his father Joe, a man so caught up in his own political and personal struggles that he rarely appears in Jimi’s life. Along his journey Jimi meets many different people, from the likes of a communist family and their beautiful daughter to a crazed South Vietnamese war veteran, but always stays intent on his goal of finding his father.

The book was primarily written in a first person dialogue style, the narrator being Jimi, so all the events of this book are appropriately biased towards his point of view. There are also various excerpts from a folder titled “Notes for a Novel”, written and compiled by Joe Thorn;

Michael Hyde uses his own personal experiences to paint an effective portrait of an extremist ‘60s social revolutionary (Joe), as well as he successfully utilizes the experiences of others who actually went to Vietnam to illustrate the feelings of many conscripts fighting there.

This book points out how dangerously close the 1960-70s revolutionaries of Australia were to committing Baader-Meinhof style acts of terrorism and helps to lift the lid on a highly controversial period of Australia’s history, whose legacies still live on. It also exposes the negative effects left on the generation after the revolutionaries by their parents, given Jimi’s drug abuse, binge drinking episodes and general low self esteem. *Hey Joe* is essential reading for those unaware of what the ‘60s really were like.

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