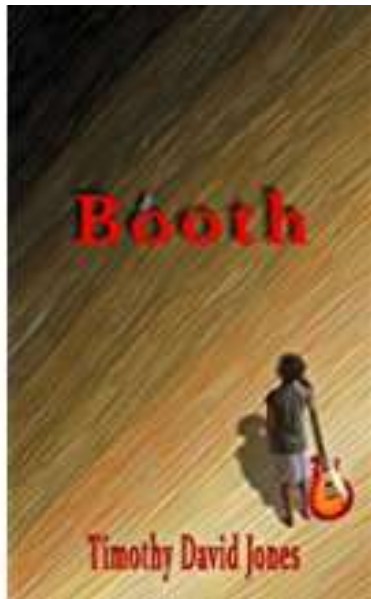


# Booth



By Timothy David Jones

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Those of age during the Viet Nam War may have known someone like Wesley Booth. Some may even have been like Wesley Booth. He's a veteran trying to get his life back after being discharged, but he follows a different and unexpected path. Wesley is a bit of a con-artist, wants to be a writer, and is a superb rock guitar player. He's always looking for the next big deal, the next chance to hit it big. He is that person we've all known, the one we wanted to smack alongside the head and yell at to get his stuff together.

As frustrated as we are with Wesley and his shenanigans, we can't help but root for him. We hope he does what he needs to do in order to live a worthwhile and productive life. We turn to the next page wondering if finally he's gotten himself straightened out. The story is entertaining, full of humor and compassion, countered now and then by moments of chaos. The author is well versed in the rules of writing, for he breaks them effectively. Unexpected transitions in point of view and tense occur so smoothly we do not notice. Yet it is those very changes that add depth and intensity to the story. This needs to be on everyone's "to be read" list, and then on everyone's "what I've read" list.