

ATTEMPTED RAPE

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I had just turned twenty when I saw a young soldier hold a gun
On a Vietnamese teen girl, to satisfy his desires and have some fun.
He pulled the hammer back on his pistol--it was a 38.
I walked into the room--it must have been fate.

She was crying and begging him to let her be.
Without thinking I drew my weapon and *said let her go free.*
Steve, you would shoot me? he said,
as he drunkenly pointed his gun to my head.
No I wouldn't...but you *heard what I said.*
Another voice from behind said yeah...*let her alone.*
Now others began to yell as we heard a ring on the phone.

All at once it was over, this new Sgt. backed away,
And lowered his gun.

This was not my idea of a man having fun.
Vietnam was a strange and dangerous place.
You could see teenage soldiers *age* overnight
just by looking at their face.
It brought out the worst and best of us all.
At least this time I was able to stand tall.