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From Picador

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From Picador : Tree of Smoke before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tree of Smoke:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth reading, but a lot could have been edited out.By DelmoreI got the sense that this could have been edited down to a much smaller, better novel, or perhaps a novelette along with a series of related short stories. Johnson is at his best describing the lives of poor and struggling people. The idea is, I think, to show the madness, confusion and futility of the Vietnam war both there and back in the U.S. He succeeds somewhat, but the result is kind of shapeless. Perhaps he intended this to be a metaphor for what he was trying to evoke. Like some other reviewers, I thought the result was uneven. Some of it was brilliant, but he needed a better editor.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You'll either love him or hate himBy Duxall InarowI bought this after reading a newspaper reviewer describe Johnson as one of the best writers of his generation. While I love being exposed to new fiction, this just wasn't to my taste. I gave it a fair chance, but had to give up on it after about a hundred pages. Yes, it's well written, but the topic pushed me away rather than pulled me in.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stay Awake. It's ComingBy Gregory ClemensFollowing the path of Joseph Conrad into the idiocy of war, the late author attempts to indict its misty phantom systems and largely fails to capture my imagination in that process. The stories, the narratives, however are gripping; particularly those of the jungles of the Philippines and VietnNam. The first Bill Houston story is a nightmare, followed by others throughout this major work where

lapsing into ennui is a harbinger of death.