

Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

Volume 11 | Issue 2

Article 16

January 2012

Return to Nam

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Recommended Citation

Dwyer, Jaclyn (2012) "Return to Nam," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 11: Iss. 2, Article 16.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol11/iss2/16>

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Dwyer: Return to Nam

RETURN TO NAM

**JACLYN
DWYER**

Thirty years after his discharge, he returned to Vietnam,
seeking solace in foreign leaves

and levees he hadn't noticed then. He said, "I don't remember
all of these ponds and lakes."

His guide replied, "That's because they weren't here back then."
Late adolescence left a pockmarked face.

It takes time to change a landscape, time to fill a hole with rain,
for the boys to find it

and pull the girls in squealing, to hold them writhing underwater
until they give up and play dead.