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During her time in Vietnam, Gloria Emerson approached a turning point in her life. Emerson, a reporter for the New York Times, thought of herself as "the bravest woman in the whole world" (Herring 371), and was interested in learning and writing about the Vietnamese people. She was an ambitious, fearless reporter who realized she was not as brave as she imagined she was shortly after arriving in Vietnam. Emerson says, "I realized it (her bravery) was a lie about the second week I was there." (Appy 371). The stress and the sadness that Emerson encountered while reporting in Vietnam was too much for her mind to handle in a positive, healthy way. She met people who were on their way to being tortured and probably killed, she held a dying man's hand right before he was released from his life, and heard about a child who was brutally tortured with water and electricity. These memories haunted Emerson and changed her entire way of thinking about the Vietnam war, and of life. Emerson was quoted, "Before the war...I was profoundly ignorant and believed in the Americans tidying up the world." (Appy 373). Emerson was only one of many Americans who began the war era with much patriotism and faith in their country, but ended the era believing that we had made a grave mistake in initiating our part in war with Vietnam. After her involvement in the war, it took Emerson a long time to pull herself out of the after-war funk and think about much else. She stated, "I didn't know how to climb out of the war. It was like being on the bottom of a crater and I kept slipping as I tried to get up the sides." (Appy 373). The war was so rough emotionally on Emerson that her entire mind was turned around and she looked at American politics and war tactics completely different.

Beverly Gologorsky was an anti-war activist during the Vietnam War who fought long and hard for her voice to be heard. She joined together with many other activists to show the country how they felt about the actions our government was choosing. Gologorsky was feeling frustrated however, because she felt that she and her group had done as much as they possibly could to get their opinion across to the country, and there had been no severe outcomes. She said, "...because the war was around for so many years the frustration was high and we ran out of what to do next. They don't care if we're out of our jobs and running around Washington or

staying up all night. They don't care." (Appy 415). Finally, when a large group of Vietnam vets gathered at the Capitol to publicly discard their medals won during their time fighting, Gologorsky felt that their efforts had been validated, and her helplessness had ended. It was the end of her feeling that nothing her group of anti-war activists did would have any effect on the country, and that no one was listening. Even though it wasn't her idea to have the vets come to the Capitol, Gologorsky felt blessed that they were supporting the same efforts she stood for. She stated, "Their presence was a gift to the antiwar movement." (Appy 417). Although the vets' protest to the war was not the end of the struggle, Gologorsky was overwhelmed with pride that the country, government, and military had been shown the effects of the war on the minds of even the men fighting the war.

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