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**For Immediate Release from The Santa Fe Writers Project**

**Richard Currey's *Fatal Light*, widely recognized as an enduring classic of the Vietnam war, will be re-issued in a special 20th Anniversary Edition by SFWP in April of 2009.**

Cited as one of the very best works of fiction to emerge from the Vietnam War by Tim O'Brien and Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Currey's bestselling masterpiece returns to print in April of 2009. This 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition released through SFWP ([www.sfwp.com](http://www.sfwp.com)) features a brand new introduction by the author.

The phenomenal bestseller was first published in 1988, subsequently appearing in more than 20 different editions and 11 languages. It was short-listed for the PEN/Hemingway Award and received, among a number of honors, the Vietnam Veterans of America's Excellence in the Arts Award, an Enoch Pratt Library of Baltimore Book Award, and the Special Citation of the Hemingway Foundation.

Inspired by Currey's own experiences as a combat medic in 1968, *Fatal Light* is a young soldier's journey through war and back. A devastating portrait of war in all its horror, brutality, and mindlessness. Just as relevant today, it remains an extraordinary novel, written in beautifully cadenced prose, and disturbingly parallels America's current wartime experience in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A combat medic in Vietnam faces the chaos of war, set against the tranquil scenes of family life back home in small-town America. This young man's rite of passage is traced through jungle combat to malaria-induced fever visions to the purgatory of life in military-occupied Saigon. After returning home from war to stay with his grandfather, he confronts his own shattered personal history and the mysterious human capacity for renewal.

Born in Parkersburg, WV, and raised in the DC area, Currey served in the US Navy from 1968 to 1972, and was a frontline combat medic during a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968-69. He was trained in jungle warfare and special operations, attached to the Marine Corps' Fleet Marine Force. He has written *Crossing Over: A Vietnam Journal*, which went on to vast acclaim and a Pulitzer Prize nomination, *Wars of Heaven*, which included O. Henry and Pushcart winning short stories, and *Lost Highway*. He currently lives in Washington, DC.

"A dazzling book ... Richard Currey achieves a stark immediacy that makes you wince."

—*Sunday Times of London*

"Of all the many books written about the war, this one will be among the handful to endure."

—Philip Caputo, author of *A Rumor of War*

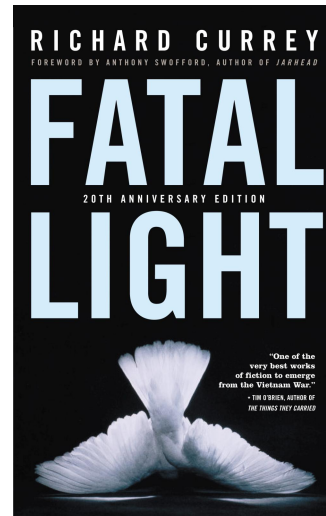
"Fiercely focused and crafted with great skill... a stunning narrative."

—*Publisher's Weekly*, starred, boxed review



"By no means a typical Vietnam war novel, *Fatal Light*, like few others in its genre, surmounts the clichés. It is one of the best literary treatments we have had of the Vietnam war."

-- *USA Today*



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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We would appreciate hearing from you if you plan a mention or review on your show or in your publication. Thank you.