



“*Turned Round in My Boots* is a working-class, coming-of-age saga that rivals the best we’ve seen in this country....It will alternatively have you laughing your socks off...[and] wrenching your gut with its horrible tales of the American family gone wrong....Perhaps most of all, this Vietnam vet will make you wonder why men ever go off to war—the answer being they haven’t yet read a book like this. The name of Bruce Patterson is not yet known by every serious reader in America, but it damn well should be.”—Gerald Nicosia, author of *Memory Babe: A Critical Biography of Jack Kerouac*



Sometimes the worst part of war is coming home



Read an excerpt on page 50.



Upon returning to American soil after the Vietnam War, Patterson has only one rule: “Never take a job you couldn’t quit.” And so begins his formidable journey of learning how to re-adapt to civilian life. Patterson describes moving to Sonoma County, sleeping in barns, and picking up whatever odd jobs were available. From digging ditches and cleaning out chicken coops to pruning vineyards and picking grapes, Patterson introduces readers to the hardscrabble life of a returning war veteran. He interweaves humorous descriptions of his work—and his frequent run-ins with authority—with memories of his difficult childhood, his work in the anti-war movement, and the devastating effects of having fought overseas.

In his struggles to overcome loss, Patterson proves once again that whatever challenges one has faced in life, the power of telling a good story is redemptive. This matter-of-fact memoir presents a view of country life far from idyllic but nonetheless lived with courage, curiosity, and zest. Patterson’s irrepressible nature and mischievous wit serve him well, and many of his hard-won insights are delivered with a twinkle in his eye. Told with remarkable honesty, *Turned Round in My Boots* is a powerful and engaging tale about hard work, true love, and surviving the aftereffects of war.



TURNED ROUND IN MY BOOTS A MEMOIR Bruce Patterson

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Memoir

See <http://www.heydaybooks.com/digitalcontent.html> for:
Author website and blog
Q & A with Bruce Patterson
Sample chapter

In addition to being a published author and a war veteran, Bruce Patterson has made a career of logging, woodcutting, and ranching in Mendocino County, California. *Turned Round in My Boots* is his second memoir and is the prequel to his acclaimed first book, *Walking Tractor: And Other Country Tales*. He currently lives on a ranch with his wife and a few half-goat, half-camel critters called llamas.