



Johnny's Song

**STEVE
MASON**

*"Lines that strike like a quivering arrow...
like the crackle of automatic gunfire...naked and
true and indisputable."*

—SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

AFTER THE READING OF THE NAMES

I just call him Johnny,
like in Johnny went off to war
and Johnny didn't come home.
And remember him,
like Johnny was a helluva ballplayer
and Johnny's girl believed in dreams.
And I can find him,
like in Johnny's folks
moved away that year—
some say, Minnesota,
but his name's still here
not two miles from his old high school
on a Peace Memorial
(which is a funny name for it).

Sometimes, like today,
we read All the names
some call it "the reading of the names."
Me, I just call it Johnny's Song.
And as much as I love the words,
I've come to really hate the music . . .

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING

Warrior for
By Steve

In *Johnny's Song* Steve Mason, a
Vietnam veteran, the wall that "sepa
poems crystallized—through men
pride—what thousands of men a
express.

In his second collection of poetry
Vietnam soldier's return, coming to
of his country and then with his ow
times exquisitely painful, identificat

"It is so easy to forget, because the
these wide-awake poems help us to
author of *The Road Less Traveled* a

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