

## **Edgar Allan Poe**

### ***Da 5 Bloods (2020)***

Cast: Jonathan Majors, Chadwick Boseman, Delroy Lindo, Clarke Peters, Isaiah Whitlock Jr.

Director: Spike Lee

Synopsis: “Four African American veterans battle the forces of man and nature when they return to Vietnam looking for the remains of their fallen squad leader and the gold fortune he helped them hide.”

### **Review:**

“Words have no power to impress the mind without the exquisite horror of their reality.”

My own words seem to have flitted away from my pen to paper, from paper to minds of thousands, but these words seem to have been splattered on an interactive canvas that is film: the painter - Spike Lee. Though his own character and being might scare some away, I for one, admire this man, this artist of his generation. Spike Lee depicts the story of a bond between men and greed; men and duty; and men and heart. To only barely cover the intricacies of this story would be going against my very own religion that is my work, but for the sake of the reader, I shall spare only a few thoughts. The depiction of a useless war is told not only through the lense of Spike Lee, but the characters that have a variety of roles to play in the film. The main characters, “Da Bloods,” Share the same beliefs despite their own personal experiences with the Vietnam War; they not only believe their lives were at stake for a cause that wasn't there to fight, but they also believed as African Americans they have fought enough for their own freedoms and for their own lives. Despite the Casual tone through language and dialogue that is used throughout the film, the writing style affects the film and how it's presented to the audience. The

dialogue builds a comfort between the actor and a camera and from the camera to the people - creating clarity and the purpose in the motives of this film. The characters of the film have demonstrated the array of perspectives within the community and how exactly they differ, but the community around them is what binds them and protects their survival. Additionally, Spike Lee has also provided a predictable prompt that any person could create a story, movie, poem, etc. about, but Lee has developed the prompt not for a stuffy title or an award-winning movie with greed as a co-writer, but as a piece of art. This movie is already standing the time of the present, but will forever be idolized and treasured by the hundreds of thousands of African Americans who look up to this man who has painted with the blood of the lost and sketched with the hands of experience to fully capture the story of four men with duties to god, their self, and to their people, not their country.

## **Ray Chapman Andrews**

### ***Da 5 Bloods (2020)***

Cast: Jonathan Majors, Chadwick Boseman, Delroy Lindo, Clarke Peters, Isaiah Whitlock Jr.

Director: Spike Lee

Synopsis: "Four African American veterans battle the forces of man and nature when they return to Vietnam looking for the remains of their fallen squad leader and the gold fortune he helped them hide."

### **Review:**

As a man of my word, to my duty, my country, to the knowledge of the world, this film has shown the greed of mankind and how destructive it can be. This film shares the true weakness of mankind - itself. Spike Lee has infected the ideals of exploration with these ideals of selfish motivations to receive gold. This story surrounds the brave black men in the heart of the Vietnam war who are ordered to retrieve gold from in the middle of the territory, but because of their anger against their society, in turn, they bury the gold for them to come back to it. During this course of the film, you see the loyalties of men to one another began to fade away as more gold comes to glimmer in the sunlight. Instead of bringing the gold to the proper authorities, these men go behind the Vietnamese government were to get a fair share of the gold rather than leave a legacy of finding the gold. These men know what they have done it's what Spike Lee highlights that justifies their illegal and morally wrong actions as proper, right, and justified. Through the images, spectacular scenery, the entire composition of a frame that leads to next, it's beautiful, never doubt that with Spike. However, Spike Lee has design characters with their motivations for the gold that they would, at any cost, betrayed their friend their "blood" as they

like to call it, for only a bar of gold. Luckily Spike Lee has some credit towards him as he phones up to the story of these African Americans and shows their crumbling deteriorating bodies mind and soul over the course of the movie. Honesty is its true aspect and the signature of all Spike Lee films and this film shows some of that Honesty. I do have to pay my dues to this director as he was able to capture the intricacies and the work that goes into exploration and the lengths that people are willing to go just find even a sliver of proof or evidence of existence. I admire Spike Lee and many of his films, but this film shows the chaos rather than the organization, the ugly rather than the beauty, and the greed over loyalty.