

# Galveston Bay

## James Vargas

For 15 years Le Bin Son fought side by side with the Americans  
In the mountains and deltas of vietnam  
'75 Saigon fell and he left his command  
And brought his family to the promised land  
Seabrook, Texas and the small towns in the Gulf of Mexico  
It was delta country and reminded him of home  
He worked as a machinist, put his money away  
And bought a shrimp boat with his cousin  
And together they harvested Galveston Bay  
In the morning 'fore the sun come up  
He'd kiss his sleeping daughter  
Steer out through the channel  
And cast his nets into the water  
Billy Sutter fought with Charlie Company  
In the highlands of Quang Tri  
He was wounded in the battle of Chu Lai  
Shipped home in '68  
There he married and worked the Gulf fishing grounds  
In a boat that'd been his father's  
In the morning he'd kiss his sleeping son  
And cast his nets into the water  
Billy sat in front of his TV as the south fell  
And the Communists rolled into Saigon  
He and his friends watched as the refugees came  
Settled on the same streets  
And worked the coast they'd grew up on  
Soon in the bars around the harbor was talk  
Of America for the Americans  
Someone said "You want 'em out, you got to burn 'em out."  
And brought in the Texas Klan  
One humid Texas night there were 3 shadows on the harbor  
Come to burn the Vietnamese boats into the sea  
In the fire's light shots rang out  
2 Texans lay dead on the ground  
Le stood with a pistol in his hand  
A jury acquitted him in self-defense  
As before the judge he did stand  
But as Le walked down the courthouse steps  
Billy said "My friend you're a dead man."

One late summer night Le stood watch along the waterside  
    Billy stood in the shadows  
    His k-bar knife in his hand  
    And the moon slipped behind the clouds  
    Le lit a cigarette, the bay was still as glass  
As he walked by Billy stuck his knife into his pocket  
    Took a breath and let him pass  
    In the early darkness Billy rose up  
    Went into the kitchen for a drink of water  
    Kissed his sleeping wife  
    Headed into the channel  
    And cast his nets into the water  
    Of Galveston Bay

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