

[PDF] Fire And Forget: Short Stories From The Long War

Colum McCann, Colby Buzzell, Brian Turner, Matt Gallagher, Roy Scranton, Siobhan Fallon, Brian Van Reet - pdf download free book



Books Details:

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Description:

From While the grand, noble causes of the past wars continue to capture our collective imaginations, the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have been treated with greater

ambivalence. *Fire and Forget*, a collection of short stories by authors who are also military veterans (or, in one case, a family member), captures the messiness of soldiering when the mission and endgame are unclear. Though fiction, each work reads true, filled with tension, fear, and anger. Readers are transported to desert checkpoints, ride along with vehicle convoys, and return home from combat to face an uncertain future. Standouts include Andrew Slater's "New Me," a sobering glimpse inside the mind of a soldier who has suffered a traumatic brain injury. In "Tips for a Smooth Transition," Siobhan Fallon, an army wife, quotes from a manual that urges spouses to "set up a security plan" in the event that their husbands experience a vivid flashback. It's a stark reminder that war, for combatants and their families, never truly ends. Writes Gavin Ford Kovite: "Heads they win, tails you lose." --Patty Wetli

Review "Searing stories from the war zones of Afghanistan, Iraq, and the USA by warrior writers. *Fire and Forget* is about not forgetting. It is a necessary collection, necessary to write, necessary to read." - **E.L. Doctorow**

"I've been waiting for this book for a decade. I laughed, shouted, and cried while reading this kaleidoscopic collection. So many facets of war and the people who do our fighting are covered here. *Fire and Forget* is a literary history of this latest period of American wars. It's a profound and telling work of art." - **Anthony Swofford**

"A diverse anthology on our long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan united by the extraordinary talents of its authors. These stories are exceptional." - **Kevin Powers**

"A resonant, moving collection of stories from writers who know firsthand about the incongruous beauty and constant tragedy of war." - **Nathaniel Fick**

"'War stories are almost never about war unless they're told by someone who was never there,' Jacob Siegel writes in the opening story of this superb collection. What's especially valuable here is to be reminded how deeply 'war stories' have penetrated American culture.... From Siobhan Fallon's moving anatomy of what a waiting spouse has to look forward to after her husband's third deployment, to Brian Van Reet's brilliant gloss on Hemingway's 'Big Two-Hearted River,' these stories mark the territory of Return, in a manner both rich and essential." - **Anthony Giardina**

Booklist, 1/1/13

□Captures the messiness of soldiering when the mission and endgame are unclear. Though fiction, each work reads true, filled with tension, fear, and anger. Readers are transported to desert checkpoints, ride along with vehicle convoys, and return home from combat to face an uncertain future."

The Guardian (UK), 1/3/13

□The range of stories in *Fire and Forget* displays a remarkable depth and breadth of the experience of the Iraq war."

WarOnTerrorNews, 1/3/13

□Like Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, most of these 15 stories are so deceptively crafted that the impact sneaks up on the reader in an unexpected way□It seems like we're preconditioned to expect 700-page epic novels, but a 10-page short story can condense all the emotion down to its core essence. The editors have done a remarkable job at maintaining that discipline□It's a powerful collection; for now, probably the best, most comprehensive□fictional□look at the wars that has been written."

The Fighting Leprechaun, 1/10/13

□Powerful□ These short stories manage to capture the essence of what service members have experienced□ There are a lot of essential truths packed into *Fire and Forget*. For those of us that have been there, or know people who served in these wars, it is important reading."

Acolytes of War, 1/21/13

□Whether portraying the fantastical or the banal, the in-theater tales feature grunts' eye perspectives on deployment, far from the sterile perspectives recounted in more official histories, memoirs, journalism, and government pronouncements□Hat's off to all the *Fire and Forget* authors and editors."

ForeWord, Spring 2013

□Deeply insightful□The writing is vivid and compelling, artfully selected by the editors□An important book□This collection deserves to be read."

Internet Review of Books, 1/25/13

□As might be expected, these stories are intense; it's hard to read many of them in a single session. Yet contrary to expectations there's not much sameness in the telling. Each man or woman has his/her own story, each one unique. These are voices we all need to hear."

East Bay Express, 2/5/13

□[A] remarkable collection□Not for the faint of heart, they are realistic, haunting, shocking, and unforgettable□This collection offers voices□powerful voices, telling the kind of truth that only fiction can offer."

Joyce Carol Oates, Twitter.com, 2/9/13

□Brilliant intro by Colum McCann. Devastating stories."

Daily Beast, 2/11/13

□A visceral, all-too-real collection of short stories by veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan□This is fiction as good as any you'll read anywhere...These pages contain a record of the cost of our excursions abroad that is as illustrative as any culture can produce."

Barnes and Noble Review, 2/15/13

□These rousing □Short Stories of the Long War' are uniquely resonant."

War on Terror News, 2/13/13

□Probably the best single representation of Iraq and Afghanistan-fiction that's currently available. Novels like *Fobbit* and *The Yellow Birds* have done their part well□but one author's voice can only go so far."

Military Success Network, 2/12/13

□Its pages feature unique but iconic stories of war, homecoming, and the struggle for meaning in both...This collection paints a startling and bleak picture of Long War veterans and their lives during and after combat□That said, the voices of *Fire and Forget* ring true in their cynicism, pain, and humor. This is an important collection of fiction, not only because of its current-day relevancy, but also because of the strength of its diverse voices, all engaged in a search for truth among the desert

sands of fiction and memory. It should not be missed by anyone with an interest in modern war or the veteran experience."

Literary Aficionado, 2/22/13

□Penetrating stories from the hands of the damaged who have scribed the tensions, and anguish, the scars, the decimation of personal lives of those who returned home either physically maimed or mentally brutalized or both□These stories are so well edited that there is a variety of types of tales□some humorous, some that show that intense camaraderie that often peaks in a war zone, some about those left behind when the soldiers were fragged to distant lands□Some tattoo on the mind."

New City, 2/26

□Nothing brings the reality of war home like hearing it from the hearts and minds of those who experienced it□*Fire and Forget* arrives at just the right time, when the last vestiges of conflict fall away□Roy Scranton and Matt Gallagher have not only compiled an excellent diversity of experiences and vantage points into the war, but also a list of accomplished and gifted writers□The stories are by turns gritty and hilarious, poignant and rhapsodic, but there's one thing they all share: they are all imbued with the deep love of their authors. Faced with something as unspeakably harrowing as war, the voices here have salvaged what small beauty they could from the turmoil□At no point is this an easy collection, but it is a necessary one."

Roanoke Times, 3/1

□Gritty with realism□The tales are exceedingly well told. Fiction it may be, but none can deny the ring of truth."

Bookviews, 2/22

□Anyone who served and anyone who wants to know what it was to serve will value this book."

Library Journal, 3/15/13

□With wars come war stories and from those stories evolves literature. Leading this generation of war literature is this collection of short stories written by soldiers and a military spouse whose lives were directly affected by the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan□The encompassing and humanistic tone is the heart of this work□The honesty and authenticity of the stories are universal□Like Walter Dean Myers's *Sunrise Over Fallujah*, these tales will appeal to readers of war and historical fiction."

New York Daily News, 3/5/13

□Some of America's greatest works of literature have come from its wars. Be it Stephen Crane, E.L. Doctorow, Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer, Joseph Heller, Thomas Pynchon, James Jones or Tim O'Brien, war has been memorialized, glorified, satirized and revealed in all its valor and depredation□Now, as another war comes to a close, a new generation of authors will come forward to define themselves through their own fictional narratives. Among the finest have been enlisted in *Fire and Forget*□*Fire and Forget* will not soon be forgotten."

Street Roots, 2/28/13

□Representing a new generation of veterans-turned-authors, the contributors in *Fire and Forget* have returned home, at least physically, and are now sharing their works and sculpting the public's perception of these wars and how they've impacted the warriors□*Fire and Forget* is an effective cultural text on multiple levels. Not only does it serve as a historical milepost, reminding us that we are waging the longest war in ou

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