



One Soldier's War

By Arkady Babchenko

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One Soldier's War is a visceral and unflinching memoir of a young Russian soldier's experience in the Chechen wars that brilliantly captures the fear, drudgery, chaos, and brutality of modern combat. An excerpt of the book was hailed by Tibor Fisher in the *Guardian* as "right up there with *Catch-22* and Michael Herr's *Dispatches*," and the book won Russia's inaugural Debut Prize, which recognizes authors who write "despite, not because of, their life circumstances." In 1995, Arkady Babchenko was an eighteen-year-old law student in Moscow when he was drafted into the Russian army and sent to Chechnya. It was the beginning of a torturous journey from naïve conscript to hardened soldier that took Babchenko from the front lines of the first Chechen War in 1995 to the second in 1999. He fought in major cities and tiny hamlets, from the bombed-out streets of Grozny to anonymous mountain villages. Babchenko takes the raw and mundane realities of war—the constant cold, hunger, exhaustion, filth, and terror—and twists it into compelling, haunting, and eerily elegant prose. Acclaimed by reviewers around the world, this is a devastating first-person account of war by an extraordinary storyteller.

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One Soldier's War By Arkady Babchenko Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If you haven't yet learned that war is hell, this memoir by a young Russian recruit in his country's battle with the breakaway republic of Chechnya, should easily convince you. And yet Babchenko, who was drafted in 1995 as a second-year law student for the first Chechnya campaign, actually volunteered for the second one in 1999 for reasons even he is hard put to explain. Written shortly after his discharge from the army, the book burns with the need to tell of his personal ordeal and that of his fellows as young, innocent and woefully inexperienced grunts condemned to a miserable life ruled by shell-shocked superiors and perpetual threats. Here there are no good guys or moral high purpose—No one, from the regimental commander to the rank and file soldier, Babchenko assures us, understands why he is here; one fights only for the fellow soldier next to him. Babchenko, now a journalist, demonstrates genuine literary ability, especially in the earlier vignette-like chapters, but readers will glean little about the conflict's political and historical context. Redundancy weakens a narrative that otherwise would have benefited from brevity. (*Feb.*)

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Review

"Bears comparison with the great literary accounts of any war."

"Harrowingly good ... This literary account from the front is a modern equivalent of All Quiet on the Western Front."

"Babchenko writes courageously about what he has seen--that is why his book is so graphic. That is why it is not only important as literature, but also politically."

"Breathlessly visual ... Easily bears comparison with the great literary accounts of other wars, such as Michael Herr's Dispatches . . . One has rarely read about a military culture in which the line between war and peace is so blurred."

About the Author

No Bio

No Bio

No Bio

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anh Huckaby:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what one you should start with. This One Soldier's War is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want

and want in this era.

Carolyn Fletcher:

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Joan Freeman:

The book untitled One Soldier's War contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the girl idea with easy technique. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

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