



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:

Nancy Sanchez:

Here thing why that One Soldier's War are different and trusted to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. One Soldier's War giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no reserve that similar with One Soldier's War. It gives you thrill reading through journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. It is

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Carolyn Baird:

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Gerard Pucci:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the time or they will get great deal of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is usually One Soldier's War.

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