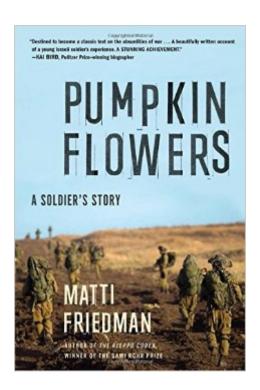
The book was found

Pumpkinflowers: A Soldier's Story





Synopsis

â œA book about young men transformed by war, written by a veteran whose dazzling literary gifts gripped my attention from the first page to the last.â • â "The Wall Street Journal â œFriedmanâ ™s sober and striking new memoir . . . [is] on a par with Tim Oâ ™Brienâ ™s The Things They Carried -- its Israeli analog.â • â "The New York Times Book Review It was just one small hilltop in a small, unnamed war in the late 1990s, but it would send out ripples that are still felt worldwide today. The hill, in Lebanon, was called the Pumpkin; flowers was the military code word for â œcasualties.â • Award-winning writer Matti Friedman re-creates the harrowing experience of a band of young Israeli soldiers charged with holding this remote outpost, a task that would change them forever, wound the country in ways large and small, and foreshadow the unwinnable conflicts the United States would soon confront in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Pumpkinflowers is a reckoning by one of those young soldiers now grown into a remarkable writer. Part memoir, part reportage, part history, Friedmanâ ™s powerful narrative captures the birth of todayâ ™s chaotic Middle East and the rise of a twenty-first-century type of war in which there is never a clear victor and media images can be as important as the battle itself. Raw and beautifully rendered, Pumpkinflowers will take its place among classic war narratives by George Orwell, Philip Caputo, and Tim Oâ ™Brien. It is an unflinching look at the way we conduct war today.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Algonquin Books (May 3, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1616204583

ISBN-13: 978-1616204587

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1.1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (61 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #60,852 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > History > Middle

East > Lebanon #60 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Middle East #64

in Books > History > Middle East > Israel & Palestine

Customer Reviews

Matti Friedman's PUMPKINFLOWERS is perhaps the best war memoir I've read this year, about his role in a "little war" I'd never even heard of. Friedman, Toronto-born, emigrated back to his parents'

native Israel after high school, where, like all Israeli youths of a certain age, he was drafted into the IDF in 1996. And like many of his male peers, he was sent "up the line" to serve in a small border post along the border with Lebanon, where the two countries had been engaged in a sporadic shooting and shelling war since the early 80s. The outpost was code-named Pumpkin. Wounded soldiers were 'flowers.' Dead soldiers were 'oleanders.' Hence the title. Although most of us here in the west were largely oblivious to that conflict between the IDF and Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon, Friedman shows us, one brief, terse chapter at a time, how 'his' war was actually the beginning of the hit-and-run terrorist wars of today, waged by Al Qaeda, ISIS, or whatever you wish to call that shadowy enemy that continues to spread terror with sneak attacks not only in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Turkey, but also in Europe and even in the U.S. Because Hezbollah was already using IED's and roadside bombs, and, by the end of the 90s, even suicide bombers began showing up in the marketplaces of larger Israeli cities like Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Through extensive research and interviews, Friedman traces the history of the Pumpkin and the young men who served at the remote post over a period of more than fifteen years, many of them maimed, mutilated and killed. He begins with the story of a young would-be writer named Avi, a dreamer and an idealist who recognized early that the army has "no room for innocence ...

Matti Friedmanâ ™s book, â œPumpkinflowers: A Soldierâ ™s Storyâ •, deserves to join the ranks of the best war memoirs. But though it deserves to join those ranks, I think it will still stand apart, for several reasons. First, and foremost, Mr. Friedmanâ ™s book will stand apart because it deals with Israelâ ™s Lebanon War. No, thatâ ™s not quite right. The first Lebanon War was in 1982; the second was in 2006. Mr. Friedmanâ ™s book deals with the period between those wars when the Israel Defense Forces and Lebanese Christian militias fought Hezbollah and other Lebanese Muslim guerrillas within a security zone established by Israel in South Lebanon. Though that period, which lacks a name and wasnâ ™t technically a war, spanned 15 years, Mr. Friedmanâ ™s book covers two periods in the 1990s, one concerning the experiences of a soldier named Avi, and one concerning Mr. Friedmanâ ™s own, later, experiences in the same conflict. This period of the conflict was odd in many senses, not the least of which is the fact that there werenâ ™t many real battles as our world thinks of them. The conflict seems to have consisted solely of small skirmishes, with soldiers in sight of their bases, and regular missile attacks on them while at their bases. Which doesnâ ™t mean that the people involved didnâ ™t risk their lives, show bravery, and die for their country; they did, on both sides. A fair number of them, in fact. But it means it was a quieter war than what is considered a cenormala • for wars. With far fewer deaths, but also with far less certainty

as to the purpose and meaning behind those deaths.

Download to continue reading...

Pumpkinflowers: A Soldier's Story World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) Canadian Corps Soldier vs Royal Bavarian Soldier: Vimy Ridge to Passchendaele 1917 (Combat) The Vietnam War: Soldier Stories: Untold Tales of Soldiers on the Battlefields of the Vietnam War (Vietnam war, soldier stories, Gunship Pilot, Marine Corp, Vietnam History, Vietnam memoirs) King's African Rifles Soldier vs Schutztruppe Soldier: East Africa 1917-18 (Combat) War Hero: The Unlikely Story of A Stray Dog, An American Soldier and the Battle of Their Lives (Kindle Single) Remembering Korea 1950: A Boy Soldier'S Story The Soldier's Scoundrel The Guns of Victory: A Soldier's Eve View, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, 1944-45 Charles de Salaberry: Soldier of the Empire, Defender of Quebec (Dundurn Lives) Ivor A. Stevens: Soldier, Politician, Businessman, and Family Man: The Man, His Times, and the Politics of St. Kitts-Nevis Operation Just Cause: Panama, December 1989: A Soldier's Eyewitness Account Diary of a Tar Heel Confederate Soldier Soldier and Scholar: Basil Lanneau Gildersleeve and the Civil War (Southern Texts Society) The Forgotten Soldier: The Classic WWII Autobiography World War 2: German Tank Crew Stories: Eyewitness Accounts (German War, WW2, World War II, Soldier Stories, Waffen SS, Last Panther, DDay, Panzer, Hitler Book 1) Road to Baghdad: Behind Enemy Lines: The Adventures of an American Soldier in the Gulf War Un largo camino/ A Long Way Gone: Memorias De Un Nino Soldado/ Memoirs of a Boy Soldier (Spanish Edition) World War 2: Waffen SS Soldier Stories: Eyewitness Accounts of Hitler's Elite Troops Chosen Soldier: The Making of a Special Forces Warrior

Dmca