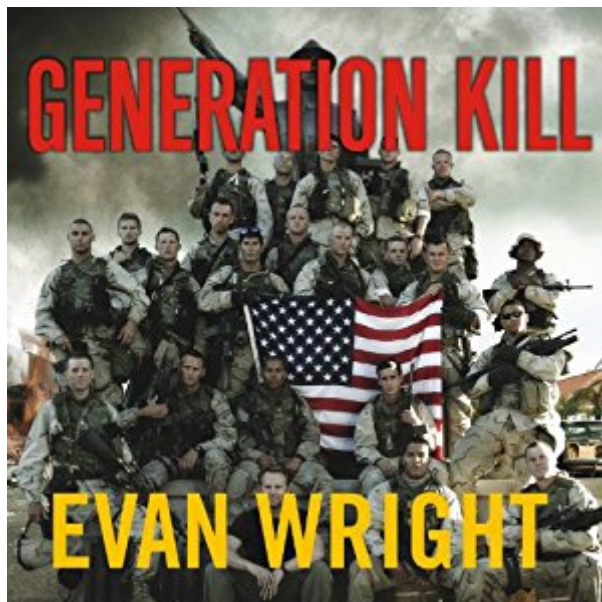


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# Generation Kill



## Synopsis

Based on Evan Wright's National Magazine Award-winning story in Rolling Stone, this is the raw, firsthand account of the 2003 Iraq invasion that inspired the HBO's original mini-series. Within hours of 9/11, America's war on terrorism fell to those like the twenty-three Marines of the First Recon Battalion, the first generation dispatched into open-ended combat since Vietnam. They were a new pop-culture breed of American warrior unrecognizable to their forebears—soldiers raised on hip hop, video games and The Real World. Cocky, brave, headstrong, wary and mostly unprepared for the physical, emotional and moral horrors ahead, the "First Suicide Battalion" would spearhead the blitzkrieg on Iraq, and fight against the hardest resistance Saddam had to offer. Hailed as "one of the best books to come out of the Iraq war" (Financial Times), Generation Kill is the funny, frightening, and profane firsthand account of these remarkable men, of the personal toll of victory, and of the randomness, brutality and camaraderie of a new American War. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This incredible book is about the invasion of Iraq in March/April of 2003. It is about the First Marine Recon Battalion, with a particular focus on second platoon in Bravo company. We meet other Marines as well, including the Alpha Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, Battalion Sergeant Major and the Battalion Commander. Some officers are competent (Lt. Fick, Capt. Patterson),

others are disastrously incompetent (Encino Man, Captain America) and there are still others with mixed reviews (Lt. Fernando and the XO). It's not about officers though. It's about the grunt Marines and their NCOs. While it details the experience of war, it also is a window into the tail end of Generation X and a strong look at military culture overall. Evan Wright rode along in a Humvee on the very front lines with 2nd platoon. He is a self-described liberal who wrote for Rolling Stone. Because he was willing to sleep, eat, ride, and experience the horror/thrill of combat with the Marines, they both opened up to him and grew to respect him (many have stayed in touch years later, which makes for an excellent Afterword). It seems like Wright is able to remain even keeled, but it is clear that he likes and deeply appreciates many of the Marines that he chronicles. Some critics have said that this book (and the outstanding David Simon HBO mini-series) glorify war, while others say it is an over-the-top anti-war story. As an Army veteran (and current Army Medical Officer in mental health) that has counseled over 1000 veterans and service members, I am of the opinion that this is very accurate and quite nuanced. I am also of the opinion that almost every war book or movie, when done accurately, has a bit of an anti-war message. War is hell. Even if you survive it.

I believe the author provided a true account of the gulf war combat. I was not there. Some things I believe were slanted to the left side, but I believe he did a brilliant and honest job of talking about combat. At the ground level, you do not know what is really happening. We throw young men and women into situations that are insane. They deserve our faith and commitment to them. The officers and POLITICIANS who order them, create the situations they need to survive, need to pay attention to books like these. Soldiers are neither stupid nor evil, the situations they asked to survive in often are. All honor to our armed forces.

This book had a strong impact on me in so many varied ways. It reads like a quick-paced thriller, a horror story, comedy, character drama and more, and all this while staying true to the facts of the first few weeks of the American invasion in Iraq in 2003. My first contact with Generation Kill was the TV series I came across while researching war for a piece I was writing. The series and book differ slightly, although the difference is more in the manner of presenting things than in the core story. The two different representations actually complement each other as the book offers more backstory and the benefit of hindsight, while the series more accurately depicts the chaos and how the marines were left in the dark about their missions almost to the very end. While this chaotic storytelling was brilliantly incorporated into the series, it certainly wouldn't work in the book so the narration being supported by maps and additional information was a good choice for it. What this

book does so well is that Wright doesn't take sides (as much as that is humanly possible), he merely reports the goings-on around him as he travels with team one of 1st Recon second platoon. He's equally frank about the marines' having doubts when the ROE say that every human being is an enemy, as he is frank relating the darker, more disturbing traits of some of the men. Perhaps the only 'fault' of this book is that it's so well written, has such compelling characters and fast paced plot that sometimes, as readers, we forget that it's not fiction. Reading it as fiction would certainly take away from its value and importance. Worth re-reading.

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