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One Month, 20 Days, And A Wake UP: One Man's Story Of What It Meant To Be A PJ



Synopsis

One man's story of what it meant to be a PJ. In 1966, the political leaders in Washington and the Pentagon made the decision to escalate the war in Vietnam. In doing, the demand for a trained military far exceeded the supply. In an attempt to meet this demand, the Selective Service was required to draft thousands of young men into the military and send them to Vietnam to fight in the United States' most controversial war. Most young men were sent with little or insufficient training, where the commanders were required to put their troops into reckless jeopardy to satisfy the political ambition of a few. *One Month, 20 Days, and a Wake Up*, follows a young man's account of his four years serving in the Air Force. This novel follows him and his best friend as they volunteer to cross train into the elite career field of Pararescue. They spend 14 months of grueling training where only the best and those with the desire to push themselves to the limit, successfully succeed in becoming a PJ. When he graduates and proudly wears the burgundy beret and Pararescue Flash, he knows it is only a matter of weeks; he will be assigned to a Pararescue flight crew in Vietnam. The book follows his 13 months in Vietnam where he quickly learns the horror of war and how he must adapt to not only keep his sanity, also return alive. His story contains several of the rescue missions he and his PJ brothers complete where not all of the rescued are returned alive. When he faces personal bereavement, he must reach deep to restore his integrity, and keep his oath, "These things I do, that others may live."

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Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed Chuck Jackson's new story, "One Month, 20 Days, and a Wake-up" One man's story of what it meant to be a PJ. The Navy has their Seals, Army, Green Beret's, and the Air Force, Pararescue Jumpers (PJ). One thing to note is that they are all the best of the best and good at what they do. In this story, readers follow the protagonist and his best friend as they go through basic training and then into Special Forces training to become PJs. The training is extremely difficult and those who graduate have a special skill "one that was greatly in need in the Vietnam War." The friend is first to leave the country and later followed by the protagonist. Once there, he finds that the two of them will be separated during their tours. The author's recounting of the training and many rescue operations shared in the book makes readers thankful that people exist who are not daunted by the task at hand. In most instances, the PJ leaves the helicopter alone to seek out the missing pilots or crews of the downed aircraft. One story in particular left me breathless, where the jumper and missing pilot are left on the ground after enemy fire causes their transportation to vacate the area. To avoid spoiling the story, I will leave it there. Other missions tell the story of rescues where those on the ground did not survive and the mission became one of recovery instead. Initially, I thought this book was about the author writing about his own experiences. He did let me know that the story is a work of fiction and the accounts are those based on the recounting from a close friend. Either way, I've a great respect for these men and their special skills. As a result, I feel comfortable knowing that soldiers like those portrayed in this story are keeping me safe. Highly recommended for those wanting to learn more about what these special people have to go through to earn the burgundy beret and flash and then, marvel at what it takes to stand between us citizens and those who want to harm us. Great job Mr. Jackson!

John Podlaski, author "Cherries - A Vietnam War Novel" and "When Can I Stop Running?"

I was blown away by this book. The author is kind of distantly related to me, so I bought the book to be "nice". I thought that I would not be interested in a book about the Vietnam War. It was a strange

time to be growing up, and I had a very traumatic incident with a vet who ended up in prison while I was in my late teens. Now, they would have known that he had PTSD, and hopefully treated him instead of letting him cause havoc until they had to send him to prison. Anyway, I LOVED this book. I can't believe the details that Chuck remembered about his training and the people he met and worked with. The stories just got more and more addictive as I got further into the book. Now I know that the way that the veterans of the Vietnam War and the Korean War were all treated so unfairly, especially considering that the World War II veterans were so celebrated. This story is an inspiration and an incredible slice of American history. I highly recommend it!!

Top notch book!!! The title tells you what it's about, and the story inside is quite revealing. Any high schooler or older adult will love this especially if you're into history. It's inspiring especially during these savagely negative political times, not to mention influential Americans who are taking a stand AGAINST the freedoms SO many before have sacrificed for us to have. For the price, for the quality and for those who especially were in the military or come from a military family, you gotta get this book! Enjoy!

I enjoyed Chicks book, his experience with the PJ's was insightful. His account of the missions and every day life in Vietnam was excellent. The way he described the training was intriguing. The way book is a page turner. Just one thing Chuck, next time check closer for typos. ã Â ÂÂ•

A very personal account of bravery and doing the the right thing in an unpopular situation. One man's journey and growth.

Could use a little better editing, but all and all very good. The author obviously had some experiences that warrant being shared.

This story was gripping and honestly told; revealing and heartfelt. I enjoyed it immensely.

Dedicated servicemen who put their life on the line deserve to be recognized. We don't often hear about these rescuers.

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