



Warrior Soul: The Memoir of a Navy Seal

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"Since the first navy frogmen crawled onto the beaches of Normandy, no SEAL has ever surrendered," writes Chuck Pfarrer. "No SEAL has ever been captured, and not one teammate or body has ever been left in the field. This legacy of valor is unmatched in modern warfare."

Warrior Soul is a book about the warrior spirit, and it takes the reader all over the world. Former Navy SEAL Chuck Pfarrer recounts some of his most dangerous assignments: On a clandestine reconnaissance mission on the Mosquito Coast, his recon team plays a deadly game of cat and mouse with a Nicaraguan patrol boat. Cut off on the streets of Beirut, the author's SEAL detachment must battle snipers on the Green Line. In the mid-Atlantic, Pfarrer's unit attempts to retrieve--or destroy--the booster section of a Trident ballistic missile before it can be recovered by a Russian spy trawler. On a runway in Sicily, his assault element surrounds an Egyptian airliner carrying the Achille Lauro hijackers.

These are only a few of the riveting stories of combat patrol, reconnaissance missions, counter-terrorist operations, tragedies, and victories in *Warrior Soul* that illustrate the SEAL maxim "The person who will not be defeated cannot be defeated."

From the Hardcover edition.

Warrior Soul: The Memoir of a Navy Seal Details

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From Reader Review Warrior Soul: The Memoir of a Navy Seal for online ebook

Bobbie says

Great memoir by a Navy SEAL

Sarah Eiseman says

Originally posted on Sarahsbookshelf.com:

This book, written by retired Navy SEAL Chuck Pfarrer, was a very interesting read. As you know, I enjoy reading memoirs from members of our military. Navy SEAL memoirs are of particular interest because their experiences are so much more intense than other branches of the military. They have more autonomy than other special operations forces and go on much more unpredictable missions, some that end successfully and some that do not.

Many memoirs are written for family members, mostly children, in an effort to shed light on the reasons that dad was away from extended periods of time or why service to our country is important. It became very clear early on that this book was not written for any audience other than an adult one that was OK with getting a little more graphic. Pfarrer shares much more detail on the horror of war, more of the logistics and bureaucracy of serving as a lieutenant, the challenges of dealing with disconnected politicians and decision-makers, and most interestingly, the communication challenges of the time (no SAT phone or email). Pfarrer also talks about the challenges of moving from military to civilian life, changes in his personal beliefs, cynicism, and many of the unseen scars of war.

The dark humor in this book did make me laugh at all the times that I wasn't cringing. I actually really enjoyed Pfarrer's frank explanation of his experiences, but also the stark differences between his writing and the writing in other contemporary memoirs. Pfarrer was clearly coming from a different experience, a different time, and had different interactions with leadership. I think this book, in particular, can help readers understand some of the bigger challenges of military service. He's also an experienced screenwriter, with movies such as Navy SEALs and Red Planet under his belt. I think it's because of this that at times the book reads much more like a novel than non-fiction.

Pfarrer's final words really have stuck with me since reading them. He reminds us all to really love those important to us, because we never know when our final day will come. Speaking from hindsight, and the many challenges he's faced and overcome, I think these are very wise words.

I would recommend this book to readers looking to understand some of the more technical aspects of service. Although this book does not go into great detail on strategy, Pfarrer spends some time talking about weaponry and chain of command logistics. He makes a real effort to educate readers on the differences between real war and the war we see in movies. Comparatively, I found this book much more graphic in its description of war, but I felt it was necessary to help the reader understand his experience. Overall, an excellent book.

Morpheus Reads says

Intriguing account of what it takes to become a SEAL and how they operate out in the field. I am not from a military family nor have I ever had familiarity or experience in understanding that lifestyle so reading this was a true education for me. I absolutely had no idea what is involved in reaching the level of skill they have and, to be honest, I had no idea people were that skilled. I am absolutely stunned by the level of training they continually undergo. I had heard of "Hell Week" through their BUD/S training, of course, but that is just the beginning. If you make it through that it is wholly impressive, but that is just the tip of the iceberg. They have to keep proving themselves in advanced training or they could still be dropped. And they are not just physically impressive, they are incredibly intelligent. They are truly the best of the best, no doubt. And, yikes, if you are chosen to work with "SEAL Team 6" it is even more challenging training.

Mr. Pfarrer gives us an account of some of his experiences, most notable is his time operating in Beirut before, during and after the bombing of the Marine barracks in 1983. He is an excellent storyteller and brings all of his experiences to life in a way that even a knucklehead like me can follow along.

To a small extent, he also shares some of his personal foibles throughout his life, which is admirable in its honesty, but it does disappoint that someone who is so thoroughly immersed in the credo of valor and courage and loyalty could be so arrogant, self-absorbed and downright cruel to those in his personal life who care about him. He recognizes that about himself, but I never got the sense that he truly felt remorseful other than to be embarrassed by his own bad behavior. This is obviously going to be my inner Pollyanna coming out here, so bear with me. I know the military is not raising up Boy Scouts but in general I have more respect for the "alpha manliness" when it is accompanied by virtues that show good character. That is neither here nor there, though, because if I'm ever in need of rescuing, feel free to send the SEAL with the worst reputation. Who cares. Just get me out of there!

James says

Unusual among military memoirs - the author is more introspective and frank than the average person, and he makes himself quite vulnerable emotionally in looking back over his past. The result is a story that is gripping in some places and poignant in others.

Much more than a lot of "there I was ..." memoirs, this gave me a feel for the author's character and inner life as much as his career and military experiences, and his psychological and emotional growth over time. Of course, as a SEAL, he centered his life on the military for many years and everything else had to fit in around it, including his personal relationships.

A thought-provoking read that will stick with me longer than a lot of memoirs.

Charles Witfoth says

the biography was interesting from beginning to end

Jess Haines says

Funny story, but I never would have read this book if people at my second job hadn't started calling each

other “Chuck” around the office. It became a thing—“Hey, Chuck, I need _____!” “Chuck, can you get this for me?” “Chuck!”

Turns out that this book is behind that silly bit of office shennanigans. It’s the memoir of a Navy SEAL, and Chuck Pfarrer pulls no punches as he tells the tale of how he graduated from a surfer dude to one bad-ass mo-fo. It made the rounds at the office, and I finally got a chance to get my hands on it about a month ago.

It took me a while to get through this book. At times, it was a difficult read. I’m not familiar with a lot of the military jargon or abbreviations that were used throughout Mr. Pfarrer’s story. That didn’t make it any less compelling, it just meant that instead of devouring it in a week or two as I usually do with books these days, it took me over a month because I was side-checking definitions or looking things up on the internet.

Chuck talks about most everything as candidly as can be expected—though, of course, there are some points where he has to be vague because of state secrets. You can’t expect him to go into detail about what he learned about terrorist tactics, blowing up buildings and ships, etc. That in no way detracts from the action or flair for dramatic detail he goes into when he does specifically recall certain incidents, such as his last mission—jumping out of an in-flight Boeing 727 so military air traffic control can test if a free falling SEAL team can be detected on radar. By the end of the first chapter, your heart will be in your mouth and you’ll quickly find yourself sucked into the story of how Chuck worked his way from being a military brat who moved around the country with his family to arriving as a “surfer hippie dude” at the toughest military school in the country. He graduates the Staunton Military Academy only to go on to CSU Northridge to study psychology, of all things.

Then, the fateful moment. He decides that his life was boring and, to spice things up, he should join the Navy to become a SEAL.

You follow his story of how he worked up the ranks, the training he went through, and then, finally, to some of the missions he carried out during his time as a SEAL. Chuck is very blunt about his own personal faults, his observations of people and operations, and does a good job at expressing his opinions by for the most part showing his actions instead of telling you how he felt about what was going on. You get a real feel for some of the places he’s been, the people he met, and the conditions he had to endure. He makes no apologies for his mistakes, though he does recognize them and makes no effort to soften them when he reveals some of his infidelities.

I’ve never read anything quite like this before. It’s an excellent book, and a very heartfelt story. You find yourself caught up in the suspense and drama of the moment as shells fall around, the search is on for snipers, and would-be terrorists are caught before they can bomb a ship. You curse at the slow-turning wheels of diplomacy as terrorists get away with murder, grip the edge of your seat as you wait for a rescue that might not come, and possibly shed a tear as the last remaining mark of Chuck’s military service is taken away.

For someone who doesn’t read memoir, this book really hit a note with me. As I mentioned, I haven’t read anything like it before. Honestly? I think it is the first memoir I’ve ever read. Chuck’s story gave me a lot to think about, and really drove home what it must be like for some of our country’s finest to be enlisted. This is a fabulous story, and I highly recommend it.

Derek Mcknight says

A great book with some fantastic stories in it. Bear in mind it is one mans perspective but even so is

remarkably frank and honest. Surprise twist at the end but a brave man who went through some tough stuff.

Kevin Berg says

Warrior soul is the book that won't let you down!

A real live view of history in the form of an autobiography chock-full of intelligent thought out plain old good writing. An action-packed book of how some True stories from the best of the best operators this country has! The authors careful not to reveal any secrets, yet reveals what most of us never knows what goes on in the world. Great read, couldn't put it down!

Michal Angelo says

* This is the real deal---raw.

* Highly technical; I'd recommend you read the likes of Marc Owen (No Easy Day / No Hero) first. This account is not going to wait for you to catch up...

Barnard Madsen says

Not a glamorous tale, but full of grit and fog of war. Glad America has SEALs (and other special forces) at the tip of the spear.

John says

If only his screenplays were as exciting as his military career. Interesting viewpoint of Dick Marcinko in the later chapters/

Peter Diminich says

Great read

Well written. Flows well. Honest and insightful. Highly recommended to non fiction readers and lovers of military novels. True heroes

C.H. Cobb says

Warrior Soul is the memoir of Navy SEAL Chuck Pfarrer, a true account of his training, experiences and exploits. I read it as research for my own novel, *Falcon Strike*. It's always difficult to review a book whose

content concerns a matter the reviewer has never personally experienced. I believe the book is authentic and honest, but only another SEAL is really qualified to make such judgments.

I grew to like the author as I got to know him through his own words. Pfarrer is a man with clay feet, but refreshingly he does not seem inclined to hide it. His indiscretions and mistakes get the same treatment as do his acts of valor, probably because after all he's been through and accomplished he simply does not care about my judgment, or yours.

The book is divided into three parts. The first deals with his training at BUD/S and beyond, and then eases into actual operations. The second deals with his deployment with SEAL Team Four to Beirut and the massive truck bomb that killed 220 men of the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit in 1983. Bitterness and anger seep through every page of this portion, and it infects the reader as well. Perhaps it had been better for America if that truck bomb had taken out 220 of our politicians or top brass instead of the marines [my observation, not his]. Idiotic rules of engagement and a military command structure that had apparently learned little since the days of the Ardennes consumed men in place rather than preserving their operational value by rotating them off the line periodically. Our recent attempts at nation-building make it apparent that the political leadership (both liberal and conservative) aren't able to tell a SEAL platoon from the Peace Corps.

That anger spills into part 3 as Pfarrer recounts the change in leadership of SEAL Team Four, and his difficulty returning from Beirut. Pfarrer applies for and receives a coveted spot on the secretive SEAL Team Six's training team, the "Green Team," and passes the brutal training regime, ultimately winning the command of a platoon in the black ops group.

One of the things I take away from this book is the almost super-human edge to which the SEALs are trained. That training regime, their strict performance standards, their meticulous planning, and the indomitable will of the individual operators is what accounts for the amazing record of success enjoyed by these elite units.

The quality of Pfarrer's writing is outstanding. At no point in the book was I bored. And he's not some soulless shooter; he's a deep, honest, and at times profound thinker. His literary craft is excellent. For example, Pfarrer opens the book with an account that he does not complete until the end of the book, creating a bookend structure that is delightful. It's a neat literary arrangement. A warning is in order, however: there's a great deal of bad language in the book.

Warrior Soul is a great book, a large picture window into a world most of us can not even imagine. On the one hand I am thankful for the men who are willing to sacrifice so much to keep the bad guys at bay. On the other, it makes me disgusted with the political figures and the political generals and admirals who misuse our armed forces and task them with rules of engagement in operations better given to the Boy Scouts than the SEALs.

Dan Sullivan says

A great collection of short stories. Perhaps better than *Lone Survivor*. One of the best war/SEAL books I've read.

george pandelakis says

Wonderful book

Love reading “The Memoir of a Navy SEAL” from beginning to the end. The story recounts the true soul of a SEAL Worrier through tough,hard soul searching training to battlefield decisions then the biggest battle of his amazing life, his battle with life threatening cancer. Chuck Pfarrer is a true Worrier and an inspiration, must read.
