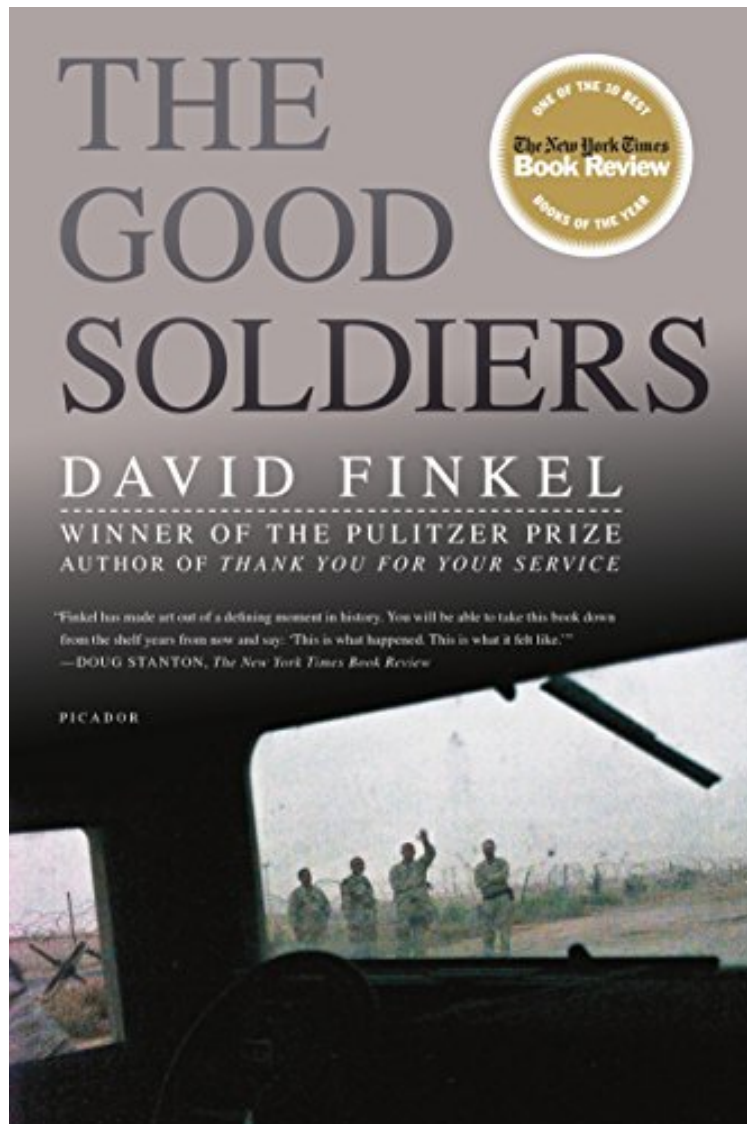


The Good Soldiers

David Finkel

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David Finkel : The Good Soldiers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Good Soldiers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of The Best - If not the Best Soldier's StoriesBy Daniel SpadaOne of the best, if not the best, story about what the "surge" did and didn't accomplish and how it affected the men who had to fight it. A lot of them died - and for what end ! This is a true story, including the name of ALL the soldiers in one Army Battalion who were deployed just for this SURGE. If this doesn't "get" you - you have never

serve in the US Military. Not an expose, just the truth of what happened and what the results were. You don't have to have been in the military to never put it down once you have started the book. Extremely well written. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "The Good Soldiers" By Marlon This book is written by David Finkel. "The Good Soldiers". I am a soldier who was stationed at Fort Riley, KS and this book is part of the big red one family and those who are mentioned in it. I thank David for writing such a true and honest book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Human Side of War...revealed and explored with expertise By Don P. Stewart As is true of Finkel's "Thank You For Your Service," "The Good Soldiers" is a wrenching read. Its exploration of the personal side of war as it is experienced by soldiers on the front line provides an insight with which some readers can relate, which some readers would prefer to never know, and which some readers find objectionable in its revelations of the brutality of war and its impact on those who fight it. Some find the book's depictions of the human response to the brutality of war objectionable. I don't. I know war for its brutality, as do millions of other combatants, as well as civilians, around the world. Read "The Good Soldier" and further your understanding of the human condition. The read may upset you; it should. War is brutal

The Prequel to the Bestselling Thank You for Your Service, Now a Major Motion Picture With The Good Soldiers, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter David Finkel has produced an eternal story ? not just of the Iraq War, but of all wars, for all time. It was the last-chance moment of the war. In January 2007, President George W. Bush announced a new strategy for Iraq. It became known as "the surge." Among those called to carry it out were the young, optimistic army infantry soldiers of the 2-16, the battalion nicknamed the Rangers. About to head to a vicious area of Baghdad, they decided the difference would be them. Fifteen months later, the soldiers returned home ? forever changed. The chronicle of their tour is gripping, devastating, and deeply illuminating for anyone with an interest in human conflict. A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR: THE NEW YORK TIMES CHICAGO TRIBUNE SLATE.COM THE BOSTON GLOBE THE KANSAS CITY STAR THE PLAIN DEALER (CLEVELAND) THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WINNER OF THE HELEN BERNSTEIN BOOK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

.com Book Description It was the last-chance moment of the war. In January 2007, President George W. Bush announced a new strategy for Iraq. He called it "the surge." "Many listening tonight will ask why this effort will succeed when previous operations to secure Baghdad did not. Well, here are the differences," he told a skeptical nation. Among those listening were the young, optimistic army infantry soldiers of the 2-16, the battalion nicknamed the Rangers. About to head to a vicious area of Baghdad, they decided the difference would be them. Fifteen months later, the soldiers returned home forever changed. Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington Post reporter David Finkel was with them in Baghdad almost every grueling step of the way. What was the true story of the surge? Was it really a success? Those are the questions he grapples with in his remarkable report from the front lines. Combining the action of Mark Bowden's Black Hawk Down with the literary brio of Tim O'Brien's The Things They Carried, The Good Soldiers is an unforgettable work of reportage. And in telling the story of these good soldiers, the heroes and the ruined, David Finkel has also produced an eternal tale--not just of the Iraq War, but of all wars, for all time. Faces of the Surge Beneath every policy decision made in the highest echelons of Washington about how a war should be fought are soldiers who live with those decisions every day. These are some of the faces of the U.S. strategy known as "the surge," as photographed by David Finkel, author of The Good Soldiers. Soldiers of the 2-16 Rangers wait for permission to enter a mosque. Two soldiers try to collect themselves after their Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb. Sergeant Adam Schumann, regarded as one of the battalion's best soldiers on the day he was sent home with severe post-traumatic stress disorder. From Publishers Weekly Starred . A success story in the headlines, the surge in Iraq was an ordeal of hard fighting and anguished trauma for the American soldiers on the ground, according to this riveting war report. Washington Post correspondent Finkel chronicles the 15-month deployment of the 2-16 Infantry Battalion in Baghdad during 2007 and 2008, when the chaos in Iraq subsided to a manageable uproar. For the 2-16, waning violence still meant wild firefights, nerve-wracking patrols through hostile neighborhoods where every trash pile could hide an IED, and dozens of comrades killed and maimed. At the fraught center of the story is Col. Ralph Kauzlarich, whose dogged can-do optimism—his motto is It's all good—pits itself against declining morale and whispers of mutiny. While vivid and moving, Finkel's grunt's-eye view is limited; the soldiers' perspective is one of constant improvisatory reaction to attacks and crises, and we get little sense of exactly how and why the new American counterinsurgency methods calmed the Iraqi maelstrom. Still, Finkel's keen firsthand reportage, its grit and impact only heightened by the literary polish of his prose, gives us one of the best accounts yet of the American experience in Iraq. Photos. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Although the writing on the war effort in Iraq and Afghanistan has been solid—Doug Stanton's recent Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan (2009), Thomas Ricks's Fiasco (**** Nov/Dec 2006), and Rajiv Chandrasekaran's Imperial Life in the Emerald City (**** Selection Jan/Feb 2007) come to mind—David Finkel's unflinching reporting brings an immediacy to the war experience that critics welcomed as necessary (despite more than a few uncomfortable scenes of

battle and its aftermath). The Good Soldiers could become to the post-9/11 generation what Phil Caputo's *A Rumor of War*, Michael Herr's *Dispatches*, or Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* were to the Vietnam generation, or Ernie Pyle's correspondence was to "the great generation" of World War II. On first joining them, Finkel told the soldiers of the 2-16 that his mission was "to document [the soldiers'] corner of the war, without agenda." He has succeeded spectacularly.