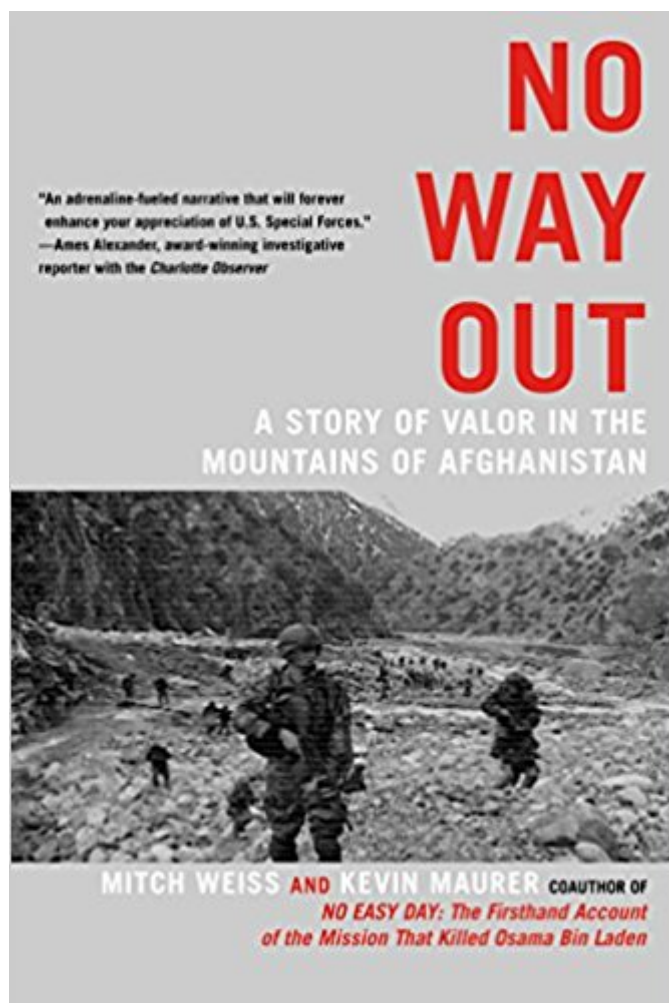


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No Way Out: A Story Of Valor In The Mountains Of Afghanistan



Synopsis

In a remote, enemy-held valley in Afghanistan, a Special Forces team planned to scale a steep mountain to surprise and capture a terrorist leader. But before they found the target, the target found them. The team was caught in a deadly ambush that not only threatened their lives, but the entire mission. The elite soldiers fought huddled for hours on a small rock ledge as rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-gun fire rained down on them. With total disregard for their own safety, they tended to their wounded and kept fighting to stay alive. When the battle finally ended, ten soldiers had earned Silver Stars—the Army's third highest award for combat valor. It was the most Silver Stars awarded to any unit in one battle since Vietnam. Based on dozens of interviews with those who were there, *No Way Out* is a compelling narrative of an epic battle that not only tested the soldiers' mettle but serves as a cautionary tale. Be careful what you ask a soldier to do because they will die trying to accomplish their mission.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was a bit unsure upon opening this book and seeing over 90 chapters listed for a book with a little over 330 pages. Any doubt was quickly pushed aside by the fast paced narrative. The mechanics of the book gives such a sense of the chaos of battle the author is trying to convey. Upon finishing this book I have even greater respect for those who put others before themselves.

A little slow at first. By page 140, it was hard to put down if you like shooting books and books about warriors. Not a happy story, but very real. Ordinary men became an extraordinary team; they survived against horrible odds. It is a book about the courage and determination of the team with just a smidgen of hinting about their idiot superiors who planned (mis-planned) and ordered the attack. The men are real American heroes. It seems that after their ordeal, most of the men returned to being ordinary civilians people again with marriages, divorces, children, happiness, sadness, etc. It would be great to spend a few hours with one or more of the team at a conference or meeting.

Well written account, You will be very frustrated with those individuals in this story that gave this mission a green light. I know nothing about military strategy and within the first 2 lines describing this mission I could tell it was a huge mistake.

In many situations, people in high places expect the impossible from those in the frontline without actually knowing enough to make the call; often ignoring the advice of those who have to execute their decisions. This is true in life - whether business or in the military. In the army, their arrogance gets people killed. This book underlines and highlights for those types, using a thick pen and neon yellow highlighters, that they should think much more than twice and listen to those who know! My overwhelming anger is with the idiots who did the ordering; who ignored the Team; and who put better men than themselves into a grave situation. Unfortunately we don't hear whether these ignorant, arrogant cretins got the "chop" but I sure hope so. As for this book and the men who survived - I salute a great Team of Warriors. You've been to hell and back and were not found wanting. The courage and tenacity is nothing short of incredible! That you all survived, amazing! That you have made a new life for yourselves, a tribute to your strength of character. Anyone reading this book who is entering any fray or going to war will be able to learn from glaring mistakes but will, at the same, be encouraged to persevere when one knows that one is in the right and stand ground against stupidity from "higher-ups"! This is an amazing book and well worth owning.

It was hard reading this book--particularly the battle scenes near the end. Every commanding officer in the military should have this as required reading! No one should have to go in to a battle without a chance of succeeding. And mistakes should not be covered up. It would be interesting to know if joint chiefs of military know what really happened here.

Uniquely written and a nice change of pace from normal book paths. Very interesting and well worth reading. Lots of background but lots of action too. I do take issue with some of the author's conclusions. While many of the normal mission steps and safeguards were not followed it may have been for a good reason. There comes a time when we have to give the upper brass some credit. Since some of the many issues never came to light, and there were many with the up to down planning, it may have been necessary and there comes a time when the down to up personnel just have to accept this. This being said, the book describes the courage and wittiness of each individual soldier involved. All can take pride in the fact that they were able to fill in the gaps with nothing more than skill and bravery. There's no need for a blame game at the end. We will probably never know all that the brass knew. Let's face it, we don't know about most of our extremely valuable military secrets and our military continue to do their jobs without demanding an explanation. It's okay to demand an explanation every time we think we deserve one. But we do our jobs whether we get one or not. Bitch but don't betray. It's almost the American way.

The real world surrounding our military contributions toward world peace. John Wayne Walding a special forces individual in the book spoke at Trumps fund raising for the vets this year and was a fantastic inspiration to me. That lead to my reading this book. It is worth the reading if you want to understand the mentality required to survive and continue to fight with your leg below the knee severed and tied to your upper leg.

This is a fast-paced story of poor leadership from commanders safely ensconced in their headquarters, and courageous work on the ground by Green Berets. The mission up (yes, up!) an Afghan mountain is recounted in harrowing detail. I realized while reading the book that my drill sergeant at Fort Benning in 2004, Karl Wurzbach, was one of the team leaders. The writing about Wurzbach is clearly based on how he talks, which gave me confidence that the book as a whole is based primarily on first-hand interviews with the soldiers themselves. There are multiple points in the text where the authors zoom out and provide more detail based on extensive research. My only gripe was sloppy editing/spelling, but I am not sure if that is in print also or only on Kindle. If you are

interested in the war in Afghanistan, what American soldiers (particularly Special Forces) are like, or what good and bad leadership looks like, I recommend you read this book!

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