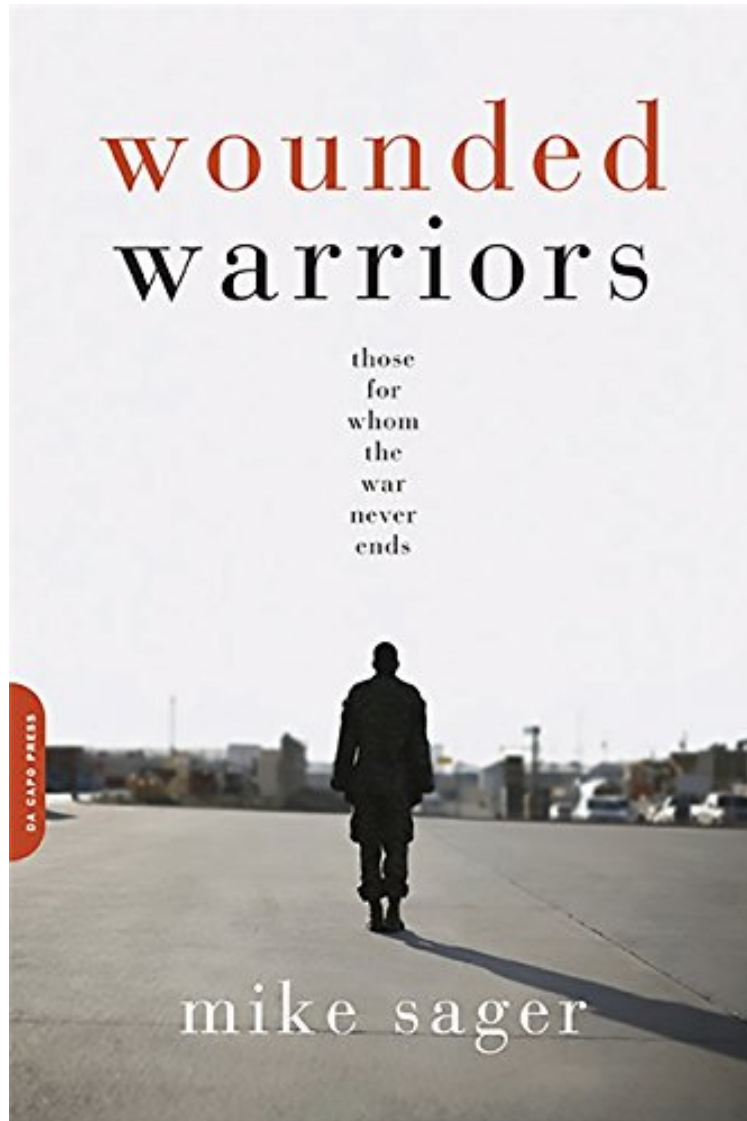


[Library ebook] Wounded Warriors: Those for Whom the War Never Ends

## Wounded Warriors: Those for Whom the War Never Ends

*Mike Sager*

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**Mike Sager : Wounded Warriors: Those for Whom the War Never Ends** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wounded Warriors: Those for Whom the War Never Ends:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Considering this Book for AdolescentsBy Pamela in San DiegoI purchased this book and read the first story, "The Wounded Warriors" as a volunteer for an adolescent book group, looking at it to determine if it is appropriate for high school students to read. I am also the mother of an active-duty Marine who has been to Iraq and is likely to go on a tour of duty in Afghanistan this year.In this piece of journalistic literature, the wounded Iraq war veterans share their stories - their lives, loves, war experiences, traumatic injuries, and

efforts to recover. The stories are very real, and offer insight into the minds of the marines - - why they join the military, how they feel about fighting, what they think of the war, how their experiences have affected their lives, etc. This story is fairly easy to read, and it moves along quickly. It shows the men struggling, yet also having hope for the future. By representing the men who live in this particular barracks, the story represents a community that is supportive and men who have bonded and understand the importance of friendship and teamwork. The marines depicted in this journalistic story are gritty, lovable, realistic and fascinating. The story is gripping; on the cover of the book it is described as "addictive" and "engrossing" - I'd have to agree thoroughly with those assessments. I was very moved by the stories and the way they are presented; Sager is a terrific writer. I did recommend it for our adolescent book group, with two caveats: (1) The facilitator should well prepared, and must be sensitive the multitude of issues raised by war and military service;(2) The group should be primarily older teens (age 16+). The story packs a real hard punch, but is important for students to read as it presents very important issues to be dealt with in today's world. It should generate terrific discussion. In an online review of the book by the Military Writer's Society of America, which honored it with their highest book rating and Founder's Award for 2008, they said, "He (Sager) compassionately, and without personal prejudices, manages to gently and psychologically dissect what he sees and senses. He brings his points of view into the story of these men without showing anything more than their own behaviors and words. The raw pains and the emotions are all there. It is a powerful tale of a group of marines baring their souls to the author on a military base in a special unit set aside for wounded warriors. For some people this chapter will open their eyes and their hearts to what these men are going through. If this chapter does not move you then nothing will." While I did recommend testing this story with adolescent book groups, I also mentioned concerns to be aware of in using it with teens. First, the stories are disturbing as the men share their war experiences and their wounds are discussed. (Counterpoint: It is realistic without being overly graphic). Second, the groups and teacher should be aware that there is a lot of cursing in the men's stories. I have read most of Sager's other stories in the book, and they are beautifully written, fascinating and very realistic in a gritty way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. RelishBy Ryan J. Vaillancourt Mike Sager's gift to you is a look, an honest, in-depth look, at subcultures you might know a bit about but wouldn't ever venture into. crack addicts in southern California, idiot savants in the country's odd smart clubs, barely pubescent boys fighting pits in Philly. these are human stories, ones you'd never experience on your own - and shouldn't. one of the best writers around these days. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book!!! By Heather Harness This is one of my favorite Sager books. I have read several but this has to be the best. His stories are often sad but true. He takes the time to really get to know his subjects and lets you feel like you too know them a bit better. This is a great read.

Lt. Col. Tim Maxwell prided himself on being a hard-core Marine a patriotic Devil Dog on his third tour of Iraq. Then his brain was shredded with mortar shrapnel. Today, Maxwell has a large angry scar on the left side of his head. He forgets words, his wife has to read to him, and he drags one foot when he walks. Yet he works twelve-hour days as commander of the Wounded Warrior Barracks at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. For these warriors, Iraq and Afghanistan will never quite be in the past. And the struggle never ends. Other stories in *Wounded Warriors* depict life inside an L.A. crack gang, ex-pat Vietnam War veterans in Thailand, and five days in Las Vegas with basketball anti-hero Kobe Bryant all of it captured stylishly by the writer who has been called the beat poet of American journalism.

From Publishers Weekly Veteran journalist Sager (*Revenge of the Donut Boys*) presents an amalgam of celebrity portraits and cautionary tales in a collection as addictive as the drugs and violence that fuel much of the author's reporting. The title story goes inside a pioneering program at Camp Lejeune, N.C., that helps wounded Marines many suffering from traumatic brain injuries return to society. In other pieces, Sager extends his war metaphor in portraits of the famous, the anonymous and the tragic: the misunderstood Kobe Bryant, Rev. Al Sharpton (one of the most reviled men in America) and nightclub bouncer and smartest man in America, Chris Langan. Some of the most compelling, and tragic, portraits are drawn from the darkest corners of American society: Generation H children of the nineties heroin addicts in New York City and teenage gang members in Venice, Calif. The author turns the spotlight on himself in *Hunting Marlon Brando*, a highly personal and quixotic odyssey to track down the elusive actor. Sager has made a career of finding the unexpected story and telling it with empathy and narrative skill a talent that's on display throughout this eclectic and consistently arresting collection. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. ForeWord, Nov/Dec 2008 Sager exhumes real people behind potent stereotypes [Sager] dissects his subjects with surgical skill, serving up juicy splices of lives lived in the trenches Sager is brilliant at getting folks to talk Sager looks into the lives of some of society's walking wounded and sees their humanity, their accomplishments, and their everyday battle to survive. San Diego CityBeat, 11/25/08 Sager writes about people we idealize, some we ignore and those we fear His reports, especially those from way under the mainstream cultural radar, create a mosaic of American lives that we've looked away from His cinematic writing whets your curiosity His self-effacing style evokes George Orwell's famous dictum that good writing should be as transparent as a pane of glass Not everything he writes is flattering, but all of it is meticulously observed, accurate and respectful.

Performances Magazine, 2/09 Like a silver-tongued Margaret Mead, Sager slips into foreign societies almost unnoticed and lives among the natives, chronicling his observations in riveting long-form narratives that recall a less tragic, less self-involved Hunter S. Thompson and a more relatable Tom Wolfe. Infiltrating hard-to-penetrate subcultures is Sager's gift. *Wounded Warriors* takes readers places few writers can. Throughout, Sager avoids the pitfall of inserting himself into the story where he doesn't belong. His subtlety honors the reader's intelligence, and his absence in each story allows the true power of his characters to emerge. In some way, each of Sager's subjects is among the walking wounded, and the reader finds empathy for even the unlikeliest of heroes.

Feminist , 2/15/09 Sager connects with each of his characters in a unique way. Kentucky Advocate, 4/19/09 Sager will bring you to tears. This beautiful book is filled with stories of heroes come home, and it will touch even the hardest of hearts. Deseret News, 11/9/08 The writing is crisp and clear in every one of the book's 11 chapters. *Wounded Warriors* is a sampler of the best of American magazine writing over the past 25 years, even if the stories all come from a single author. Sager's range is prodigious, but his focus never wanders. Sager doesn't leave any question unanswered; he is giving us the whole story. Sager gets so close to his subjects that readers may feel like a rush-hour commuter rubbernecking at a wreck—maybe you should avert your eyes, but then again maybe you shouldn't, because truth is being revealed. The throbbing of these wounds is real, and we should know, we need to know, what these men and women feel and experience so we can empathize and act. Despite the gritty details, Sager has a deft, easy, readable touch that never becomes heavy-handed. He clearly cares for these people, and in his hands, so does the reader.