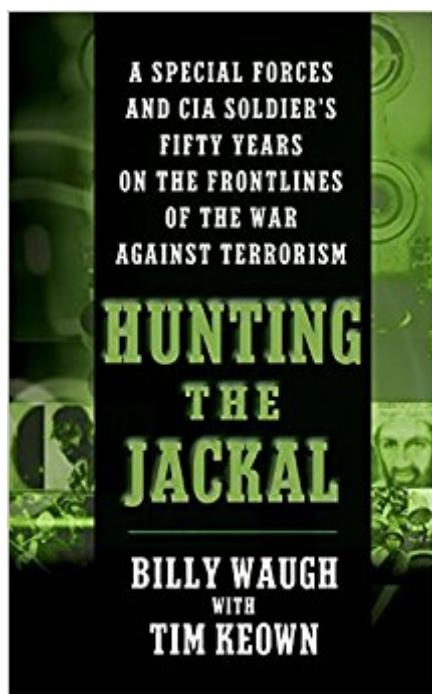


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Hunting The Jackal: A Special Forces And CIA Soldier's Fifty Years On The Frontlines Of The War Against Terrorism



Synopsis

For more than half a century, Special Forces and CIA legend Billy Waugh dedicated his life to tracking down and eliminating America's most virulent enemies. Operating from the darkest shadows and most desolate corners of the world, he made his mark in many of the most important operations in the annals of U.S. Spec Ops. He spent seven and a half years behind enemy lines in Vietnam as a member of a covert group of elite commandos. He trailed Osama Bin Laden in Khartoum in the early '90s, and would have killed the terrorist kingpin if his superiors had allowed it. And at the age of seventy-two, he marched through the frozen high plains of Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Hunting the Jackal is the astonishing true account of the singular career of a courageous soldier in his nation's shadow wars -- including his pivotal role in the previously untold story of the capture of the most infamous and elusive assassin in history, Carlos the Jackal.

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Customer Reviews

This bloody, chest-thumping memoir showcases the Special Forces mindset at its most fanatical. Maimed in a firefight with the North Vietnamese, Waugh limped back to Vietnam, his shrapnel-riddled leg oozing pus, to volunteer for six more years in combat. When that war wound down, Waugh bounced around until he found a new lease on life as an "independent contractor" with the CIA. Happily ensconced in squalid, sweltering Khartoum in the early 1990s, he surveiled all-star terrorist Carlos the Jackal and kept tabs on up-and-comer Osama bin Laden, for whom he

drew up assassination plans, only to have them nixed by "sanctimonious" higher-ups. Never one to fade away, Waugh, age 71, wangled his way into a Special Forces unit for the 2001 campaign in Afghanistan, where the younger soldiers "worshipped" him. There he relished the awesome accuracy of American smart bombs, but still pined for the excitement of the up close and personal throat-slitting and machine-gunning of his salad days in Vietnam. Waugh is a Special Forces zealot, reserving his bitterest ire not for Communists and terrorists but for squeamish civilian officials and conventional military brass who disdain special ops. He doggedly eschews introspection, proclaiming himself "a man of action, a man who functions" without "gazing into the distance, pondering the meaning of it all." Co-writer Keown, co-author of the Dennis Rodman memoir *Bad as I Wanna Be*, keeps the writing taut, pungent and full of coarse, often gross, thrills and lots of special ops and spycraft lore. But Waugh himself emerges as a one-dimensional, blustering character to whom the years seem to have bequeathed more fervor than wisdom. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

--This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

In this all-action memoir, Waugh, with help from professional writer Keown, recalls a half-dozen episodes from Vietnam, Sudan, and Afghanistan. These were selected from a fund of combat and intelligence experiences in 60 countries that, according to Waugh, he otherwise can't talk about. Although Waugh expresses the warrior ethic that has motivated him, in general, he is not personally revealing beyond exhibiting mission-oriented drive in dispatching the enemy. Waugh describes battles he was involved in, some as a member of the Study and Observation Group, the subject of several recent histories (e.g., *Secret Commandos* by John Plaster [BKL My 1 04]). After surviving the Vietnam War with medals for valor and shrapnel in his body, Waugh was contracted by the CIA to conduct surveillance on infamous terrorists such as Osama bin Laden and Carlos the Jackal. Waugh recounts tailing them in the early 1990s (ruing that his proposals to kill them weren't accepted) and concludes with his participation--at age 71--with American special forces in Afghanistan. That's a record sure to awe students of special-operations warfare. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

An incredible story about an incredible man and his military/intelligence career. At times it reads like a novel and you have to remind yourself that this is a real man. The story spans like five decades of service beginning in Korea, hitting Vietnam and ending in the Middle East in various capacities. In

this book was the first time I'd heard of Billy Waugh. My hats off to him though. I gave it a 4 and not a 5 star simply due to the bragging that goes on. Maybe I should have thought more about the saying, "if you can do it, it ain't bragging". Overall, a good read.

I am about half way through this memoir and I am thrilled at each passing page. What a life! Warren Buffett once said that he was successful at investing and finance because he was "wired" to do this sort of work. Mr. Waugh was put on this earth to do nothing but plan, fight, achieve the mission and do it again. I am in awe of this man. As a man who has lived down range and seen some awful things, I'm not sure many of us could have picked up and carried on the way this man does. He is relentless in his pursuit of mission success and I can only wish that he would have led some of our ops. God Bless You Billy and may America always have a "Billy Waugh" in her ranks. I know we will!!!

I rate this book at the highest. I know the writer and know that he is one of America's true heroes, a fine resolute, tough individual who, when he sets out to accomplish a goal, accomplishes it and usually more. You can depend that all that you read in this book is factual and it is extremely interesting to see how he accomplished bringing down Carlos the Jackal and maintaining vigilance on Osama Bin Laden. Billy accomplished this later in life, after a distinguished career in the US Special Forces and MACVSOG in Vietnam. I recommend this to anyone who wants to see how a true artist accomplishes a covert mission.

Imagine that your Walter Mitty dream has come true and you are a star wide receiver playing in the 2007 Superbowl. You run to the huddle only to find a gray haired Joe Namath calling the signals and leading the team on a scoring drive. A dream, but for small teams of young Special Forces soldiers leading the anti-Taliban forces in southern Afghanistan was very real. A soldier and operator who was a legend in their father's and grandfather's days is there in the middle of the fight. Waugh, at age 72 is the middle of early days of the fight in Afghanistan, fighting not only the Taliban, but bone chilling cold in the thin air while hauling his share of gear. More than 50 years older than the young fellow soldiers, Waugh was a living, fighting legend. Few understand the impact made by mixed teams of Seals, Delta, Rangers, Air Force and CIA operators on the overthrow of the Taliban. Understand that the literary review of this book was written by one of the testosterone deficient, panties all in a wad folks whose concept of self sacrifice is only cheating a little on their taxes. They are simply unable to comprehend two foundational truths, that they can

write what they want, worship their own god, and speak their mind is created by people like Waugh and protecting their freedoms is a dirty, thankless task. Do not expect to find the polished writing or the introspection of *One Bullet Away*, rather this is a story of doing, stripped of almost all emotion. Some of the reviewers questioned if the truth had been stretched. Most likely the bridging details were snipped by the CIA censors, in our interest. A google or search for Billy Waugh normally points to many references to him, usually prefaced by "the legendary Billy Waugh." Before Afghanistan there were years of fighting terrorism in the hellholes of the world. Waugh was tracking Osama almost a decade before 9-11. Later he was with the team that finally picked up the trail that lead back through a number of steps to legendary terrorist Carlos the Jackal. Perhaps half of the book covers this lengthy search and then observation. Waugh captured the many months of frustrating waiting for the politicians in Washington to make decisions, especially when any hint that he was being tracked would have sent the Jackal on the run again to the safety of Iran or Iraq. That he was captured is a tribute to the CIA in both their ability to find Carlos and to keep the surveillance operation hidden and secret for months while the politicians fiddled, looking for a low risk way to get rid of Carlos. In a very modest way Waugh also tells of getting leave from Walter Reed Hospital, where he was receiving care for very serious wounds, only to fly to Vietnam while on leave and ask to be sent back to the field. Despite the fact that he was still limping badly he was allowed to remain after badgering many in the chain of command. The book has the feel that there was a lot more that was deleted during the CIA's review of the book. In some cases the deletion of information on methodology and technology leaves holes. One wonders where do men like Waugh come from, willing to devote 50 years to the service of their country, mostly in violence torn countries looking for bad guys and protecting the good guys. My hope is that he will receive enough cooperation from the CIA to put together a few more great books.

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. I found it much more of a historical account of the spy business and special ops rather than merely a personal story. Certainly Billy Waugh is a legendary and intriguing character and that side of the story is itself fascinating. The combination of Waugh's personal experience and the detailed, first hand accounts of hunting Carlos "The Jackal" as well as the lesser known background in "Hunting bin Laden" makes this an important book. A first hand account of how special forces and intel work at the ground, grubby hands level. Highly recommended.

I want to review this book fairly. Not because it is not outstanding (it is), but because Billy Waugh is

such a humble man and mentor that a gushy praise would piss him off. I have had a chance to be mentored and assisted by Billy on a couple occasions over the years, and I have to say, I never knew half of this. Why, because he did what he needed to do at the time and it was both his job and his honor. Not many men could reach the bar he has set. So I say this book is worth a read for those who want to see what true 110% is. Billy would probably say you need to read the book as a service to those who have all paid the ultimate price that he had the honor for serving with. His story is a series of snapshots in time to show what a team of teams can do and what dedicated men with full resolve can achieve. We don't call them heroes, we call them soldiers. And in the case of Billy Waugh and his teams, we call them the Green Berets.-J.T. P. sends

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