



A Soldier's Legacy

Heinrich Böll, Leila Vennewitz (Translator)

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It is 1943 and Wenk, a young German soldier guarding the Normandy coast, finds himself in a war where the main enemies are loneliness and misery. Corruption is rampant in the High Command: supplies are being siphoned off, and starving, exhausted soldiers must cross their won mine fields to steal potatoes from the neighboring French farms.

Against all army rank and protocol, Wenk forms a friendship with Lieutenant Schelling, whose protests on behalf of his men have incurred the wrath of another officer. When the company is transferred to the fighting on the Russian front, fear, suspicion, and mistrust forces events to a shocking conclusion.

Written in 1947 and lost in the chaos of Germany in the postwar years, *A Soldier's Legacy* now takes its place beside *All Quiet on the Western Front* as a depiction of the horrors of war.

A Soldier's Legacy Details

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Omid says

Iman ASK says

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Parisa says

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Arvin says

Amy says

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KamRun says

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Zeynab Babaxani says

Ben says

Der Krieg wird niemals zu Ende sein, solange noch eine Wunde blutet, die er geschlagen hat. (Heinrich Böll)

Mehdi Nabavi says

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Steven says

Sometimes you have to read the unexpected to learn something old. Heinrich Böll's "A Soldier's Legacy"

read alongside one of his first books, "The Casualty," is a learning experience for a war veteran. The soldier's miserable life is the same in every army, and always has been. And the point comes to nearly every soldier when he's running on empty, just trying to push ahead, and no longer cares if he lives or dies, the one being no better than the other. That's the meat of Boll's short story "The Unknown Soldier" in "The Casualty," and the underlying story - beneath the murder story - in "A Soldier's Legacy." Hard books to read, hard books not to read.

Kris McCracken says

Heinrich Böll's first novel, it remained unpublished for forty years. Semi-autobiographical, it is a good description of military service, with an emphasis on the excruciating boredom of life on the coast of occupied France, waiting for something to happen. Then they get sent to the Eastern Front.

Written in 1947, it is a very German book. The story is infused with a post-war resentment of officers who survived; based on a theme that the decent and intelligent died, and explores the nature of obedience and resistance within the structure of army life.

You can tell it's written by someone at the beginning of establishing their craft, but in some ways it makes it all the more interesting.

ZaRi says

Elham says

Aleksandar Trapara says

I've been told that Böll was not an exceptionally good writer (despite being a Nobel laureate), and yeah, I do

agree this story is not exactly on a par with the greatest stories of antiwar literature. However, his reflections on war, fear and bravery are so strikingly similar to my own that I really have to love this book for purely personal reasons. Also, this is the first WWII account from the German point of view I've read so far. This writer is a jewel. I already bought two more Böll's novellas, plus a collection of short stories and I can't wait to read them.

Reza Mardani says

Faeze Taheri says

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Samira says

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KOMET says

This book offers a poignant description of the life of a German soldier on occupation duty in France during 1943 and his befriending of a lieutenant whose concern for the welfare of those under his command has put him in hot water with his brother officers. Eventually, the soldier's unit is transferred to the Eastern Front, where events spiral out of control and lead to a startling outcome.

Chakavak says

Hamidboka says

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