



The War Reporter

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Winner of a Jewish National Book Award and author of *The List* and *Jacob's Oath*, both of which achieved outstanding critical acclaim, NBC Special Correspondent Martin Fletcher delivers another breathtaking tale of love, war, and redemption.

Tom Layne was a world-class television correspondent until his life collapsed in Sarajevo. Beaten and humiliated, he fell into a hole diagnosed as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Eleven years later he returns to the Balkans to film a documentary on the man who caused his downfall: Ratko Mladic, Europe's biggest killer since Hitler, wanted for genocide and crimes against humanity. Mysterious forces have protected Mladic for a decade, preventing his arrest, and these shadowy but deadly foes swing into action against the journalist. Tom soon falls into a web of intrigue and deceit that threatens his life as well as that of the woman he loves.

Drawing upon his own experiences reporting on the wars in Bosnia and Sarajevo, Martin Fletcher has written a searing love story and a painfully authentic account of a war reporter chasing down the scoop of a lifetime.

The War Reporter Details

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Author : Martin Fletcher

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, War

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Jeremy Spaulding says

I tried, and I tried, but this book could not hold me. Very boring with characters I did not care about. I got to about page 200, but had to bail.

Linda says

I won a copy of this book through a GoodReads giveaway. I chose to listen to it, however. I am a political/news junkie and NBC is my preferred network. Martin Fletcher was a long time foreign correspondent for them. That is why I chose the book. He didn't let me down as an author any more than he did as a reporter. The story starts with two reporters and a local interpreter who are ambushed in Bosnia. The story then jumps ahead a decade and one of the original reporters is still reporting in Sarajevo, but is doing a less than stellar job and is soon let go by his network. The audio version I listened to was narrated by Guy Fletcher. When I heard the last name, I wondered. In an end of the book interview by the narrator with the author, the listener finds out the Guy is Martin's son. It was easy to listen to and kept me completely engaged.

Eadie says

This was a very engaging read which keeps the readers attention throughout. This Balkan War story is seen through the eyes of a war reporter and is based on real facts and explains a lot about a confusing cultural conflict that most people do not understand. It is also a great love story amid all the heartbreak of war. I now look forward to reading more of Fletcher's novels and I highly recommend this book.

Tara Layne says

Good, solid book. I have always been interested in war reporting, so I felt like this was a book I needed to read. It's about a war correspondent, Tom Layne (same last name as mine!) and a lot of it deals with the post traumatic stress he suffered as a result of the time he spent over a decade prior in Sarajevo while reporting on the conflict there. The other main character, Nina, also has a lot of issues that she needed to work out during the course of the book.

Not sure if other people who are not journalists or former reporters would find this as interesting as I did, but I liked it. I wouldn't give it 5 stars because I have read better war reporting books, but it was solid.

Stephanie says

I finished this one late last night, and loved it. Written with some historically accurate events from the

Bosnian War, and having taken classes on the history of Yugoslavia, I was very much drawn to this story. Very real and very touching. Definitely reading more by Fletcher.....

Bonnye Reed says

XXX This was an exceptional novel, covering several years of the Bosnian War, both from the viewpoint of an experienced, damaged reporter, and the Bosnian woman who has been his fixer and translator over the years. I could not put this novel down. Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was under constant siege for 1,425 days - the longest siege in the history of modern warfare. Fletcher gives a taste of the hardships involved in the isolation of a city numbering 435,000 souls at the beginning of the siege, both those suffered by the world press and the native residents. It is estimated that 5,434 city residents, including Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs were killed over the months of the capture of the city, and in the total of the Bosnian War, Serb forces, with the backing of the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army, targeted both Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) and Croatian civilians for atrocious crimes resulting in the deaths of some 100,000 people (80 percent Bosniak) by 1995 (History.com).

Martin Fletcher brings this all to your heart and mind as you travel with him through the former Yugoslavia both during and after the Bosnian war. Read this. It will open your heart.

Joe Holley says

Had a hard time getting thru the book. It seemed long and drawn out and found the characters hard to care about. The ending was also somewhat predictable.

Karen says

Based on Fletcher's experiences, The War Reporter is a suspense-filled and beautifully-written novel of war with all of its atrocities and the long process of healing after the fighting ceased. A touching love story between the reporter and his interpreter is deftly intertwined with dangerous research for a documentary on a war criminal in hiding while struggling to cope with their own lingering demons from the war. This novel reads more like a thriller than a memoir. Highly recommended.

Heather Hyde says

This starts off so well a war correspondent who is kidnapped in the Balkans along with his colleagues with tragic consequences but it goes on too long and when he returns in time to hunt down Mladic it's very slow and it drags and is quite tedious in places.

Michael says

In an inspiring story of love and war, Martin Fletcher has written "The War Reporter."

This riveting thriller begins in 1994 with Tom Layne - an American TV journalist, reporting from Sarajevo. He's teamed with his cameraman, the lovely translator, Nina, and English journalist, Nick Barnes.

Always on the look out for the next inspiring story, Tom visits the nearby hospital and notices a small boy. The boy is left alone and doesn't speak. He was being taken to the hospital for an operation on his harelip. However, he was separated from his mother in a bombing incident and he's left alone. No one knows his name or his mother.

Tom and Nick discuss how finding the boy's mother could be a great story and decide to risk the shooting in the mountains to find the boy's mother.

They succeed in doing so at great cost. One of their members is killed and Nina is attacked after she reacted to a man who stole her family's land.

Battle worn, Tom returns home and returns 12 years later.

The story tells of the horrors of war. The cruelty inflicted and the love that develops between Tom and Nina. It grabs at the reader's heart to witness what these two brave people go through.

Winner of a Jewish National Book award for good reason. The author describes Tom becoming traumatized after the death of a friend and experiencing the hopeless feeling as he hears his love screaming for help which he can't deliver.

The strong story will linger in the minds of the reader long after reading the book.

Recommended.

J.B. Siewers says

I really liked the descriptions of what it was like in the Balkans/ Sarajevo during the Balkan wars in the 90's and the insight into a war reporters life. But the writing seemed not as polished as i am use to. Though he did create some good suspense it really did not bring the story to a strong conclusion.

Martha Bohn says

One of the best books I've read in a long time!

Dave says

The first third was very compelling and readable, taking place during the Balkans war. I very much looked

forward to the rest of the book, but ended up disappointed as it was filled with downright dumb dialogue and situations. Good descriptions of the politics and war atrocities though.

Melinda says

After closing the book I kept thinking of all the war correspondents - the ravages they witness, bloodshed embedded in their memory, terrifying nightmares, for some like Tom they experience hardcore trauma first hand. Whatever the circumstances it left me contemplating how many suffer from PTSD. With all certitude there are more Tom Layne's suffering silently as their family and friends remain helpless in what to do. No doubt a dangerous occupation where your life is on the line continuously, danger lurking at every corner. I have always held war correspondents in high esteem but more so after reading Fletcher's enthralling and brutal story of the Serbia-Croatia War.

Tom, Nina, Nick their chemistry and combined stories grip your attention. Tom and Nina tethered forever through the unthinkable, able to understand what each has endured and continues to struggle with years later. I love their chemistry together along with their tender romantic connection. Tom's quest for revenge seeking Ratko Mladic is exciting, his intelligence and motivation makes his search intriguing and fascinatingly dangerous. Fletcher excels in sketching a well-defined portrait of a war journalist in the heat of battle as well as the aftermath of war atrocities, a balanced emotional glimpse.

Fletcher's journalistic expertise paired with his stellar career to draw upon, his eloquent writing provides such an exciting story equal measures memoir, and thriller.

Lauren Hopkins says

For such a short and easy book, it took me like two weeks to finish this because I just could NOT get into it even a little. I love any book dealing with Sarajevo and the war there, especially fiction because not much exists, but this wasn't really gripping in the least. I liked that the focus was on a war reporter instead of Sarajevo's citizens because it's a unique perspective, but I just didn't care enough about the characters to find their story that tragic. If anything, the author introduces what would be a much more compelling story with Petar in the hospital and his mother unable to get to him, but that ends up being background noise with the focus on the capture of a war criminal and even THAT isn't really solved or tied up in a way that's satisfying. Definitely meh and not something I'd recommend.
