



Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan

By Sean Parnell, John Bruning

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A riveting story of American fighting men, *Outlaw Platoon* is Lieutenant Sean Parnell's stunning personal account of the legendary U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division's heroic stand in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Acclaimed for its vivid, poignant, and honest recreation of sixteen brutal months of nearly continuous battle in the deadly Hindu Kesh, *Outlaw Platoon* is a *Band of Brothers* or *We Were Soldiers Once and Young* for the early 21st century—an action-packed, highly emotional true story of enormous sacrifice and bravery.

A magnificent account of heroes, renegades, infidels, and brothers, it stands with Sebastian Junger's *War* as one of the most important books to yet emerge from the heat, smoke, and fire of America's War in Afghanistan.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Best-Selling Author Brad Thor Reviews *Outlaw Platoon*

How close can we get to really knowing what it's like to succeed in combat? To fight, to survive—even thrive—while facing enemy fire every other day? To get on-the-job training in what it takes to be a strong, decisive commander? These are a few of the things that make *Outlaw Platoon* by Sean Parnell and John Bruning such a kick-ass read.



Two of the grittiest, most intense tales of courage and camaraderie under fire that I own are *Black Hawk Down* and *Lone Survivor*. Now I have a third: *Outlaw Platoon*. It's the *Black Hawk Down* for the 21st Century. It is an absolutely gripping, edge-of-your-seat ride that follows these men when the fates foolishly attempt to stack the deck against them. This book has Hollywood blockbuster written all over it. But there's much more than just the guns-blazing action. It is an epic tale of leadership, heroism, and the bond among warriors who ply their deadly trade with a deceptively simple mandate—to kill the enemy and return home together alive. It's an absolute must read!

Brad Thor Interviews Sean Parnell

Brad Thor: What was your first day like on the ground in Afghanistan's eastern frontier?

Sean Parnell: The moment I arrived at Forward Operating Base Bermel, the insurgents attacked the base with rocket fire. They missed the FOB, but hit a local village, killing and wounding a number of children. The villagers rushed their injured to our front gate, and I ran to help. Our troops wanted to help all of the children, but the Afghan fathers insisted the boys be treated first. I grabbed a little girl anyways and sprinted for the aid station. She bled out in my arms as I ran.

That was my introduction to combat. All I was, all I had been, changed in that instant.

Thor: What surprised you about the enemy in Afghanistan?

Parnell: We found an enemy that wasn't a bunch of farmers with leftover weapons, but one of the finest light infantry forces in the world. These fighters were brilliantly led, seasoned warriors. Some had spent their entire lives in combat—stretching back to the Soviet War in the 1980's. They were elusive, heavily armed

and extremely well equipped with the latest armor-piercing bullets, anti-tank weapons, body armor, and other gear essential to ground operations.



They also had no mercy. None. Their objective was to overrun an American platoon, behead everyone and stick our heads on stakes. In battle, we heard them on the radio ordering their teams to do this, and we saw the huge knives they carried for the task.

They did their best to overrun us three times. But we were better. Just barely.

Thor: Describe the bond forged in battle—the loyalty and bravery you saw and why you think that’s vital to success.

Parnell: During my 16 months in combat I saw the noblest aspects of the human spirit, thanks to the bond that developed among the men. We realized that the only way we could survive this crucible was to remain committed to each other. Not for ourselves, but to ensure that we would survive to see our loved ones back home again.

Thor: How would you describe the men in your platoon?

Parnell: In a word: unique. Our army mirrors the country it’s sworn to protect, and I think the Outlaws reflected America’s greatest strength: diversity. My men came from all walks of life. They believed in American exceptionalism with every fiber of their being. And if they were similar in any way, it was in this ideal.

Review

“The range of emotions that Sean Parnell summons in *Outlaw Platoon* [is] stunning. A nuanced, compelling memoir . . . Parnell shows he’s a gifted, brave storyteller.” (Pittsburgh Tribune)

“*Outlaw Platoon* put me back on the battlefield again. It’s a heartfelt story that shows how very different people can be thrown together in combat and find a way to make it work. Parnell and the soldiers who fought beside him are all courageous heroes—real bad asses.” (Chris Kyle, author of *American Sniper*)

“Two of the most intense tales of courage under fire I own are *Black Hawk Down* and *Lone Survivor*. I now have a third, *Outlaw Platoon*. It’s an absolutely gripping, edge-of-your-seat ride.” (Brad Thor, author of *Full Black*)

“*Outlaw Platoon* is an utterly gripping account of what our soldiers endure on the front lines—the frustrations, the fear, the loneliness. . . Here, in these pages, are the on-the-ground realities of a war we so rarely witness on news broadcasts” (Tim O’Brien, author of *The Things They Carried*)

“*Outlaw Platoon* is an exceptional look into the mind of a platoon leader in Afghanistan; Captain Parnell shares his experiences of leadership, loss, and aggressive military tactics. You can really feel the bonds forged between these brothers in arms as the battle plays out” (Marcus Luttrell, author of *Lone Survivor*)

“At times, I forgot I was reading about a war as I was drawn up in the drama the same way you [are] when reading Krakauer’s *Into Thin Air* . . . This is a book of probing honesty, wrenching drama and courage.”
(Doug Stanton, author of *Horse Soldiers*)

“[A] soulful story of men at war . . . *Outlaw Platoon* shows us that the love and brotherhood forged in the fires of combat are the most formidable qualities a unit can possess.” (Steven Pressfield, author of *Gates of Fire*)

“*Outlaw Platoon* is expertly told by a man who braved the heat of battle time and time again. An epic story as exacting as it is suspenseful, it reveals the bravery and dedication of our armed service men and women around the world.” (Clive Cussler)

“This book is more than just a rip-roaring combat narrative: it is a profoundly moving exploration into the nature and evolution of the warrior bond forged in desperate, against-all-odds battles. A significant book, not to be missed.” (Jack Coughlin, author of *Shooter: The Autobiography of the Top-Ranked Marine Sniper*)

“*Outlaw Platoon* is the real deal. It’s a terrific tale of combat leadership that deserves to be studied by all small-unit leaders. The narrative goes beyond the battlefield to depict the maddening nature of the war and the grit of those who selflessly protect us.” (Bing West, author of *No True Glory*)

“Sean Parnell reaches past the band-of-brothers theme to a place of brutal self-awareness . . . [he] never flinches from a fight, nor the hard questions of a messy war.” (Kevin Sites, author of *In the Hot Zone: One Man, One Year, Twenty Wars*)

From the Back Cover

At twenty-four years of age, U.S. Army Ranger Sean Parnell was named commander of a forty-man elite infantry platoon, the 10th Mountain Division—a unit that came to be known as the Outlaws. Tasked with rooting out Pakistan-based insurgents from a valley in the Hindu Kush, Parnell assumed they would be facing a ragtag bunch of civilians until, in May 2006, a routine patrol turned into a brutal ambush. Through sixteen months of combat, the platoon became Parnell’s family. The cost of battle was high for these men. Not all of them made it home, but for those who did, it was the love and faith they found in one another that ultimately kept them alive.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carrie Mathis:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for us. The book *Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan* seemed to be making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The reserve *Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan* is not only giving you far more new information but also for being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with all the book *Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan*. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Norma Wilson:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan book is readable by means of you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to offer to you. The writer connected with Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan content conveys the idea easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different available as it. So , do you still thinking Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Michelle Morrow:

This book untitled Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan to be one of several books which best seller in this year, that's because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by means of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this book from your list.

Royce Woods:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because this all time you only find publication that need more time to be study. Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Renegades, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan can be your answer since it can be read by you who have those short extra time problems.

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