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Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda

By Sean Naylor



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Award-winning combat reporter Sean Naylor reveals how close American forces came to disaster in Afghanistan against Al Qaida—after easily defeating the ragtag Taliban that had sheltered the terrorist organization behind the 9/11 attacks.

At dawn on March 2, 2002, over two hundred soldiers of the 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain Divisions flew into the mouth of a buzz saw in Afghanistan's Shahikot Valley. Believing the war all but over, U.S. military leaders refused to commit the extra infantry, artillery, and attack helicopters required to fight the war's biggest battle—a missed opportunity to crush hundreds of Al Qaida's fighters and some of its most senior leaders.

Eyewitness Naylor vividly portrays the heroism of the young, untested soldiers, the fanaticism of their ferocious enemy, the mistakes that led to a hellish mountaintop firefight, and how thirteen American commandos embodied "Patton's three principles of war"—audacity, audacity, and audacity—by creeping unseen over frozen mountains into the heart of an enemy stronghold to prevent a U.S. military catastrophe.



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Editorial Review

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Reviewers lauded Naylor's "meticulously reported" account (*Oregonian*). It includes in-person observations during the operation (Naylor was imbedded with the 101st Airborne Division troops who fought in the battle), and scores of after-the-fact interviews, many with sources who wouldn't allow themselves to be identified. His two-year undertaking to bring those 17 days to life yields an extraordinarily detailed account of the fateful mission. While a few critics felt that some aspects of the book were unbalanced, all agreed that Naylor did a good job in portraying the drama, heroism, and blunders that defined Anaconda while raising broader issues of warfare and its ultimate purpose.

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From [Booklist](#)

In March 2002, U.S. forces moved into the Shahikot Mountains, hoping to trap and eliminate a substantial number of Al Qaeda fighters. They were handicapped almost fatally by their own lack of numbers, substandard logistics support, the highest altitudes at which Americans had ever fought, and the frigid weather of the mountains. Victory eluded them, although considerable damage was done to the enemy; and disaster may have been averted by the actions of special operations teams drawn from Delta Force and Seal Team 6. These operatives put on a very convincing demonstration of how much of the future of warfare may lie in the hands of small bands of experts engaging the enemy by stealth, with heavy firepower on call, firepower that wasn't always available in Operation Anaconda. Prizewinning *Army Times* reporter Naylor has written the best full-scale history of Operation Anaconda to date. *Roland Green*

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Review

"If you liked **Black Hawk Down**, you'll not be disappointed by **Not a Good Day to Die**... Extraordinary."
—**New York Post**

"Naylor has doggedly pursued the full story of Operation Anaconda from the time he was 'embedded' with 101st Airborne Division troops who fought in the battle... often against the wishes of [U.S.] commanders...an admirable job of exposing [Operation Anaconda's] many shortcomings." —**The Washington Post**

"The best full-scale history of Operation Anaconda to date." —**Booklist**

"Excellent." —**The Cleveland Plain Dealer**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their spare time

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Connie Hockaday:

Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into fresh stage of crucial pondering.

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