



Love Thy Neighbor: A Story of War

By Peter Maass



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Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize



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Peter Maass went to the Balkans as a reporter at the height of the nightmarish war there, but this book is not traditional war reportage. Maass examines how an ordinary Serb could wake up one morning and shoot his neighbor, once a friend--then rape that neighbor's wife. He conveys the desperation that makes a Muslim beg the United States to bomb his own city in order to end the misery. And Maass does not falter at the spectacle of U.N. soldiers shining searchlights on fleeing refugees--who are promptly gunned down by snipers waiting in the darkness. **Love Thy Neighbor** gives us an unflinching vision of a late-20th-century hell that is also a scathing inquiry into the worst extremes of human nature. Like Michael Herr's **Dispatches** (also available in Vintage paperback), it is an utterly gripping book that will move and instruct readers for years to come.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Peter Maass from the center of the nightmare in Bosnia, a war correspondent's montage of images - eerie, grotesque, ironic, angry, absurd. A Serb and Muslim, friends before the war, exchanging gossip via shortwave radio hours before they will try to kill each other. The Serbian president coolly denying reports of atrocities that have been witnessed by hundreds. A battlefield doctor performing miracles of surgery without anesthetic. Drivers without headlights gambling their lives in the darkness of no-man's-land while schoolchildren scamper across Sniper Alley. The author takes us with him into the minefields of modern war with a fierce, vivid, and personal book.

From Publishers Weekly

Torture, mass murder of civilians, rape and looting are common occurrences in Washington Post staff writer Maass's intensely personal firsthand report on the war in the former Yugoslavia, based on his tour as a foreign correspondent in 1992-1993 and supplemented by up-to-date political analysis. His disturbing mosaic portrays ordinary individuals caught up in an ongoing tragedy. Rejecting the Serbs' claim that they faced imminent genocide at the hands of a radical Muslim dictatorship in Bosnia, Maass charges that Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic and his fellow nationalist extremists used the specter of Islamic persecution as a smoke screen behind which to pursue their expansionist dreams of a Greater Serbia. Maass interviews Milan Koracevic, the unrepentant Serb warlord who supervised "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia, and he scathingly limns Charles Redman, U.S. special envoy to the Geneva peace talks. To Maass, President Clinton and his western European allies are weak-willed appeasers whose agenda was to give the Serbs virtually everything they wanted and to award half of Bosnia to Serbia. BOMC alternate; author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Maass, a widely respected reporter for the Washington Post, has produced an excellent account of the "tragedy and absurdity" of the Bosnian war. While the subject has already been well treated in such works as David Rieff's *Slaughterhouse* (LJ 2/15/95), Maass's book is distinguished by a particular sense of drama and by the author's access to the war's leading personalities. We move from the "disarming sincerity" of the mendacious Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to the desperate and angry Bosnian vice president Ejup Ganic and the "evil genius" of the war, Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic. Maass concludes in profound sympathy with the Muslims, whose "fatal mistakes" were to discount the threat to their minority status and to believe that the "wild beast [of aggressive nationalism] had been tamed." This attitude sustains a passion that may breach the "respectable distance" of professional journalism while it questions whether such distance is compatible with exceptional reporting. Highly recommended for all libraries. [See also David Owens's *Balkan Odyssey*, LJ 2/15/96. ?Ed.] ?Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Eri. - ?Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

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