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Blind Fall: A Novel

By Christopher Rice



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From three-time *New York Times* bestselling author Christopher Rice -- whose novels have been called "bold and ambitious" by *The New York Times*, "chillingly perverse" by *USA Today*, and "shocking, sexy...intricate" by *Glamour* -- comes this startling psychological thriller about an Iraq War vet who seeks redemption and revenge when a fellow Marine he failed to protect during the war is brutally murdered.

John Houck became a Marine to become a hero. But his life changed when he failed to notice an explosive device that ended up maiming the captain of his Force Recon Company, a respected Marine who nearly sacrificed himself to save John's life.

Home from Iraq, John pays a visit to his former captain, only to discover the captain has been gruesomely murdered. John pursues a strange man he sees running from the scene, but he discovers that Alex Martin is not the murderer. Alex is, in fact, the former captain's secret male lover and the killer's intended next victim.

When it becomes clear that local law enforcement has direct connections to the murder itself, John realizes that to repay his debt of honor, he must teach Alex Martin how to protect himself, even if that means teaching Alex to kill. In the process, John confronts the painful truth about the younger brother he was unable to protect and the older sister he always felt he failed.

Blind Fall is a story of honor and integrity, of turning failure into victory. It is a stunning departure for Christopher Rice: the story of two men, one a Marine, one gay, who must unite to avenge the death of the man they both loved -- one as a brother-in-arms, one as a lover -- and to survive.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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Amazon.com Exclusive

A Letter from Christopher Rice

Dear Amazon.com Reader,



Authors hate answering the question "what is your book about?" because deep down most of us are arrogant enough to believe that our books are about *everything*. Birth, death, love, grief. You name it, I probably think it's in there somewhere, albeit sometimes only in the form of a throwaway character, like a wisecracking gas station attendant who pops off a few good lines about living in the present as my main character bounces on the balls of his feet, impatient to be rung up so he can race to his next car-chase. But the longer I write for a living, the more it becomes clear to me that while arrogance is a helpful tool for dealing with one's own negative reviews (or the death threats that have been posted alongside your promotional video on YouTube), the question "what is your book about" is one that I better have a coherent answer to long before it's posed to me by anyone besides the ever-present critic who lives in my head. Otherwise I find myself writing entire chapters about the shape of a certain box hedge because I've lost my way and fallen prey to that childish belief that writing is about nothing more than filling up a page. (It is, kind of, but only when you're past deadline.) That said, I can say with confidence that my latest thriller, *Blind Fall*, is a novel about self-acceptance. It's about how we are often forced to let go of something we believed to be an absolute truth before we can treat ourselves with the same respect we would grant our

closest friend. And in that sense, it is also a story about how our own visions of our past, of where we came from and what made us who we are, become incomplete and deceptive if we turn away from those who walked the path with us and the insights they have to offer into our own personal history.

Phew! Got that out of the way. How was that, Amazon.com editors? Did I win over some Jonathan Franzen readers with that one?

Please note that I referred to my own novel as a thriller. I did so with pride. As I've said now in numerous interviews, *Blind Fall* was intended to be lean, clear and forceful, a suspenseful story about gays in the military that might appeal to the broadest audience possible. That doesn't mean I dumbed down or cleaned up a more "literary"--God, I hate that word--story that's still sitting in my desk drawer. It means I chose to tell the entire story from the point-of-view of the character facing the greatest personal challenge of any in the book--John Houck, the battle-scarred Marine who discovers the comrade who saved his life in combat was secretly gay. Anything that didn't serve John's character, that didn't ring true to who he was, didn't make the cut. That was a challenge. I love the guy as much as I do any of my protagonists but let's just say we probably wouldn't end up voting for the same candidate in the Presidential election this coming November and we certainly have different CDs in rotation. (To get into character sometimes I would depart from my usual film score montages and get amped up on a little Coheed & Cambria and Incubus. Don't laugh! It's not that big of a stretch. I went to a Mottley Crue concert when I was twelve.)

I also chose to tell you who the killer was about 70 pages in. Why? Because this novel is not a whodunit. This novel is a what-the-hell-are-they-going-to-do, but that's got a few too many words in it so we call those thrillers. Don't get me wrong; there are some twists and turns along the way, but I didn't want the reader breaking sweat over who was responsible for the murder that starts off the action. I wanted the reader's heart to become invested in the relationship between John, the straight (and more than a little homophobic) Marine, and Alex, the secret gay lover of the man who saved John's life. How are these two very different men going to come to accept one another, if at all? This is the question that dominated my thoughts while I was writing the book, and if you decide to give it a read, I hope it dominates yours as well. Sometimes the best suspense comes not from the revelation of a previously concealed detail that's been skillfully foreshadowed, but from wondering how a character you have come to know intimately over the course of many chapters is going to react to a seemingly insurmountable set of obstacles. That's what I was shooting for with *Blind Fall*.

So there you have it, along with a few unsolicited personal details about yours truly. (Like the fact that I went to a Motley Crue concert when I was twelve.) At the very least, I hope *Blind Fall* keeps some of you up late at night. For the next month, my late nights will all be spent in hotels as I cross the country to promote this puppy. Maybe I'll get to meet some of you along the way.

Best,

Christopher Rice

From Publishers Weekly

Rice's fourth thriller (after 2005's *Light Before Day*) clumsily mixes the plight of gays in the military with an unlikely murder investigation. John Houck, a former marine sergeant, returns to the States from Iraq, determined to make amends with his commanding officer, Capt. Mike Bowers, who was gravely injured due to John's negligence. But when he tracks Mike down at home in Owensville, Calif., John discovers Mike

gruesomely murdered in his bed. John, who had no idea Mike was gay, reluctantly joins forces with Alex Martin, Mike's live-in boyfriend, to bring the killer to justice. After John and Alex learn that local law enforcement played a role in Mike's death, they must go on the run to save their own lives. A subplot involving John's brother's suicide distracts in a subpar effort that lacks the complexity of Rice's earlier novels. *10-city author tour.(Mar.)*

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Review

"*Blind Fall* is a tale of heroism and cowardice, a yearning search for redemption and acceptance, and a haunting portrayal of characters, both gay and straight. Christopher Rice writes with a sharp eye and a full heart." -- T. Jefferson Parker, author of *Storm Runners* and *The Fallen*

"The name Rice is synonymous with seamless and sensitive prose, and Christopher lives up to that name....A timely and compelling story, with shadings and ambiguities that demonstrate Chris's maturity as a writer." -- Sandra Brown, author of *Play Dirty* and *Ricochet*

"Christopher Rice is a phenomenal writer, and *Blind Fall* is exquisite proof of that fact. He brings unforgettable characters and unrelenting suspense together in a powerful story that will stay with you long after you've closed the back cover. This is the thriller at its best." -- Jan Burke, author of *Kidnapped* and *Bloodlines*

"Christopher Rice has written a high-style, high-speed thriller with a furious rhythm and pace that will satisfy his legion of fans and find him plenty of new ones." -- Mark Childress, author of *One Mississippi* and *Crazy in Alabamas*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Milton Jones:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Blind Fall: A Novel*. Try to make the book *Blind Fall: A Novel* as your friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you really feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we should make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Patrice Gasaway:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their very own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the publications. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write on their book. One of them is this *Blind Fall: A Novel*.

Mary Deleon:

Exactly why? Because this Blind Fall: A Novel is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Homer Simon:

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