



The Long Road Home: A Story of War and Family

By Martha Raddatz

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ABC News' Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Martha Raddatz shares remarkable tales of heroism, hope, and heartbreak in her account of "Black Sunday"—a battle during one of the deadliest periods of the Iraq War.

The First Cavalry Division came under surprise attack in Sadr City on Sunday April 4, 2004. Over 7,000 miles away, their families awaited the news for forty-eight hellish hours—expecting the worst. In this powerful, unflinching account, Martha Raddatz takes readers from the streets of Baghdad to the homefront and tells the story of that horrific day through the eyes of the courageous American men and women who lived it.

“A masterpiece of literary nonfiction that rivals any war-related classic that has preceded it.”—*The Washington Post*

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- Sales Rank: #94290 in Books
- Brand: Raddatz, Martha
- Published on: 2008-01-02
- Released on: 2008-01-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .99" w x 5.51" l, .74 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Violent resistance in post-invasion Iraq kicked into high gear on April 4, 2004, when American troops in Sadr City faced a massive assault that claimed eight soldiers' lives and wounded more than 70 others. Raddatz, an Emmy-winning correspondent for ABC News, clearly aims to equal the storytelling in Mark Bowden's *Black Hawk Down* in her account of the battle, and hits the mark with distinction. Extensive interviews with the commanding officers of the army's 1st Cavalry division and the soldiers pinned down in the streets provide a clear narrative of how U.S. troops, prepared for "a babysitting mission," found themselves in a bloodbath, as efforts to rescue the first soldiers fired upon met with even greater resistance from Mahdi militiamen who did not hesitate to use small children as frontline attackers. Heroic moments abound, like Casey Sheehan's volunteering to take another man's place on the rescue team, which resulted in his death. Raddatz touches upon the reaction of his mother, noted antiwar activist Cindy Sheehan, but this is just one of many perspectives from families on the home front. The gripping account eschews politics and focuses squarely on the soldiers and their sacrifices. (Mar. 1)

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From Booklist

Raddatz, the chief White House correspondent for ABC News, has also spent considerable time not on the White House lawn or in the pressroom but covering, in person, the war in Iraq. To personalize war is usually the province of fiction and cinema, with nonfiction often left to be the more analytical side of war coverage. But here Raddatz infuses, with a professional elan belying the fact that this is her first book, her observations with the immediacy and even the discomfort that a novel would be expected to bring home to the reader (the discomfort being an unavoidable but perhaps necessary byproduct of any realistic depiction of war). *Home* is a particularly appropriate word here, because the home front is the flip side of her account. She's right there describing in horrific detail all the blood and guts, fear and anguish and bravery, of what the men and women she talked to and learned from endured on the front line. But she alternates these graphic scenes with poignant ones from back home, where mothers and wives await their loved-ones' deployment or dread the fateful knock on the door with bad news. To read her succinct, trenchant prose is to experience what we may not want to experience--but *need* to. There is considerable publisher push behind this book, so expect demand. *Brad Hooper*

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Review

"The word 'sacrifice' is used a lot. In *The Long Road Home*, Martha Raddatz shows what the word really means...Read it."—Thomas E. Ricks, author of *Fiasco*

"Grit and high drama...searingly vivid evidence of the toll U.S. soldiers pay."—*The New York Times*

"A picture of American valor and unflagging commitment."—*Rocky Mountain News*

"A poignant piece of work that will grab and hold you."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"[This] nervy, brilliantly reported book tells the human stories that ricocheted out from one long, brutal firefight."—*The Star Tribune*

“A truly great book about men, women, and raw courage.”—Diane Sawyer, ABC News

“Raddatz’s powerful book introduces us to people we root for, and care about, and won’t soon forget.”—Nathaniel Fick, author of *One Bullet Away*

“An unforgettable and entirely new portrait of the American family at war.”—Evan Wright, author of *Generation Kill*

“[A] fast-paced narrative of how some of these soldiers struggled to survive when their routine patrol of a Baghdad slum went terribly wrong, forever changing the lives of those involved and signaling a new phase in the violent resistance to U.S. occupation of Iraq.”—Los Angeles Times

“Might well be the Black Hawk Down of the Iraq war.”—*The Washington Post*

“A thoroughly gripping read...There is something very special about membership in the ‘brotherhood of the close fight,’ and *The Long Road Home* establishes clearly that those who fought on ‘black Sunday’ earned a cherished place in that elite fraternity.”— General David Petraeus, commander of Multinational Force Iraq

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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