



Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir

By Joel Turnipseed

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed

In early summer of 1990, Joel Turnipseed was homeless—kicked out of his college's philosophy program, dumped by his girlfriend. He had been AWOL from his Marine Corps Reserve unit for more than three months, spending his days hanging out in coffee shops reading Plato and Thoreau.

Then Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

Turnipseed's unit was activated for service in Operation Desert Shield. By January of '91, he was in Saudi Arabia driving tractor-trailers for the Sixth Motor Transport Battalion—the legendary "Baghdad Express." The greatest logistical operation in Marine Corps history, the Baghdad Express hauled truckloads of explosives and ammunition across hundreds of miles of desert. But on the brink of war, Turnipseed's greatest struggles are still within. Armed with an M-16 and a seabag full of philosophy books, he is a wise-ass misfit, an ironic observer with a keen eye for vivid detail, a rebellious Marine alive to the moral ambiguity of his life and his situation.

Developed from Turnipseed's 1997 feature article for GQ Magazine, this innovative memoir—simultaneously terrifying and hilarious, equal parts *Catch-22* and *Catcher in the Rye*—explores both the absurdities of war and the necessity of accepting our flawed world of shadows. With expansive humanity and profane grace, Turnipseed finds the real-world answers to his philosophical questions and reaches the hardest peace for any young man to achieve—with himself.

 [Download Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir ...pdf](#)

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir

By Joel Turnipseed

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed

In early summer of 1990, Joel Turnipseed was homeless—kicked out of his college's philosophy program, dumped by his girlfriend. He had been AWOL from his Marine Corps Reserve unit for more than three months, spending his days hanging out in coffee shops reading Plato and Thoreau.

Then Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

Turnipseed's unit was activated for service in Operation Desert Shield. By January of '91, he was in Saudi Arabia driving tractor-trailers for the Sixth Motor Transport Battalion—the legendary "Baghdad Express." The greatest logistical operation in Marine Corps history, the Baghdad Express hauled truckloads of explosives and ammunition across hundreds of miles of desert. But on the brink of war, Turnipseed's greatest struggles are still within. Armed with an M-16 and a seabag full of philosophy books, he is a wise-ass misfit, an ironic observer with a keen eye for vivid detail, a rebellious Marine alive to the moral ambiguity of his life and his situation.

Developed from Turnipseed's 1997 feature article for GQ Magazine, this innovative memoir—simultaneously terrifying and hilarious, equal parts *Catch-22* and *Catcher in the Rye*—explores both the absurdities of war and the necessity of accepting our flawed world of shadows. With expansive humanity and profane grace, Turnipseed finds the real-world answers to his philosophical questions and reaches the hardest peace for any young man to achieve—with himself.

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1507170 in Books
- Published on: 2003-10-28
- Released on: 2003-10-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.74" h x .59" w x 5.38" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

 [Download Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir* By Joel Turnipseed

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Turnipseed has expanded a 1997 GQ article on his experiences as a reluctant Marine during the first war with Iraq into a compelling memoir that has more than a little in common with Anthony Swofford's *Jarhead*, which was also an account of the camaraderie, "soul rending boredom" and horror of life on the battlefield by a bookish soldier more comfortable hefting a pen than a gun. In 1990, Turnipseed is a college dropout in Minnesota, spending his days sipping coffee and reading Nietzsche, when his unit is called up for active duty. The first thing he does is decide to start smoking. Armed with a pack of Camels (later a pipe), a journal and a duffel full of philosophy texts, Turnipseed soon finds himself hauling munitions through the Saudi desert. His bunkmates, with their Game Boys and beer parties, at first regard him with suspicion. And no wonder: when his nose isn't buried in a Kierkegaard tome, he's prone to pedantic lectures and generally comes across as sneering and pretentious. For a while, Turnipseed relishes his role as egghead among the meatheads. Offered a warm Old Milwaukee one night by one of his brothers-in-arms, Turnipseed waves him off and turns back to his book. "Get real," the soldier retorts. "We're all in this together now, philosopher. Better make the best of what ya got." And soon, of course, his pompous veneer melts away in the desert sun and he realizes he has more in common with his Marine brothers than he would ever have thought. This is a coming-of-age story with all the right ingredients: self-deprecation, wit, insight, irony and a lucid, enthusiastic writing style. The Marine who emerges at war's end is older and wiser-and liked and accepted by his unit-and a pretty good writer to boot.

Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"An edgy, street-talking trip into the often inane realities of 'high-tech' contemporary warfare. Turnipseed gives us an invaluable tale of war as it is, reckless and semi-insane. Americans, in our perilous times, should be paying attention--reading this book, this vivid story about getting to the far side of triumph."

"A deeply felt account of an exile's passage across the back office landscape of modern war. Turnipseed is a lucid, passionate, and oddball observer with an extraordinary ear for vernacular speech and a deft and understated prose style. His book is the best dispatch so far from the Middle East desert battleground."

"This is a wonderfully timely book. *Baghdad Express* is well-written, very up to date, and in many ways an amazing tour de force."

From the Inside Flap

"An edgy, street-talking trip into the often inane realities of 'high-tech' contemporary warfare. Turnipseed gives us an invaluable tale of war as it is, reckless and semi-insane. Americans, in our perilous times, should be paying attention--reading this book, this vivid story about getting to the far side of triumph." -- William Kittredge

"A deeply felt account of an exile's passage across the back office landscape of modern war. Turnipseed is a lucid, passionate, and oddball observer with an extraordinary ear for vernacular speech and a deft and understated prose style. His book is the best dispatch so far from the Middle East desert battleground." -- Alec Wilkinson

"This is a wonderfully timely book. *Baghdad Express* is well-written, very up to date, and in many ways an amazing tour de force." -- Robert Bly

"BAGHDAD EXPRESS manages--remarkably--to keep us there in the moment (1990-91) with the author's scared, smartassed and likably philosophic self, even as it exercises the controlling perspective of the older-and-wiser (if still young) man now telling the story. Despite its profane good humor, the book has less in common with most modern American war memoirs than with prose works produced by the sensitive British soldier-poets of the First World War. And yet, for all that, the author has created something entirely unto itself. Joel Turnipseed was never a natural Marine; but he's a writer, for sure." -- Thomas Mallon, author of "Henry and Clara" and "Two Moons"

"This is the rarest of war memoirs--an account of the unglamorous, written with laugh-out-loud dialogue, that also reminds us why philosophy matters. Turnipseed has rubbed the jewelry of our philosophic heritage across the touchstone of war and shown which proves true gold and which a shining fraud. He and his Marine comrades in Desert Storm, black and white, deserve our honor and thanks." -- Jonathan Shay, author of "Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character" and "Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jerald Elliott:

Book is written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A e-book Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir will make you to become smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think in which open or reading a book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or suitable book with you?

Hollie Hoffman:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a e-book. The book Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir it is quite good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

Alyssa Lewis:

You can obtain this Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir by visit the bookstore or Mall. Merely viewing or reviewing it might to be your solve difficulty if you get difficulties on your knowledge. Kinds of this guide are various. Not only through written or printed and also can you enjoy this book simply by e-book. In the modern era just like now, you just looking by your local mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your current ways to get more information about your reserve. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still upgrade. Let's try to choose correct ways for you.

Effie Steger:

Publication is one of source of knowledge. We can add our understanding from it. Not only for students but additionally native or citizen will need book to know the update information of year to be able to year. As we know those ebooks have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, can also bring us to around the world. By book Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir we can have more advantage. Don't you to be creative people? Being creative person must want to read a book. Just simply choose the best book that acceptable with your aim. Don't always be doubt to change your life at this book Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir. You can more inviting than now.

**Download and Read Online Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir
By Joel Turnipseed #NUKW9R3FGEP**

Read Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed for online ebook

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed books to read online.

Online Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed ebook PDF download

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed Doc

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed Mobipocket

Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed EPub

NUKW9R3FGEP: Baghdad Express: A Gulf War Memoir By Joel Turnipseed