Dressed To Kill

The true story of a woman flying under fire

Charlotte Madison

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Customer Reviews

So when I typically read real life military stories from the modern wars, it has points of action, frustration, sometimes a little bit of comic relief, and almost always a man’s perspective and story telling. This book is just as gritty and exciting where it needs to be, but for the parts of the book that are between missions on base, her different take on the day to day is unique, and sometimes hilarious. She describes every nuance of having to live, fly, and fight in the desert, and adds little details that no other book, or male author, has added. I've really enjoyed reading it. Don't worry, even though she describes how gross the toilets are here or the food is there, she still stays on mission when it comes to flying and fighting in the Apache. Even though I'm a big mechanized warfare fan, I find myself going to the glossary in the front of the book from time to time to look up all the acronyms she appropriately interjects. This is the story of an experienced fighting Apache pilot and respected officer, who just happens to be a woman.

I loved this book, Charlotte comes across as such a nice, fun person in it and it gives a fascinating insight into the life of an Apache pilot. Many war biographies just focus on the actual warfare but Charlotte includes quite a bit about what goes on in the basecamps which adds a nice bit of depth to the book and makes for a fun read.

There are plenty of books written by men about their war-time exploits, including some notable recent ones about 'helicopter heroics' in Afghanistan. However Charlotte’s book stands apart from
them for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it provides a rare insight into the thoughts, feelings and reflections of a woman engaged in modern combat operations. I found her book delightfully honest and, being written with distinctly female style and sensibilities, refreshing. Secondly, it is historical - documenting how Charlotte became the first UK woman to qualify on the Apache despite high odds against her success, and the entrenched bias against a woman in such an 'Alpha Male' domain. Finally, I believe Charlotte serves as both an inspiration and role model for modern women everywhere. She's obviously highly intelligent, strongly motivated, insightful and extremely capable but is also funny, sensitive, and remains very 'womanly' despite her numerous brutal experiences. A great read!

Really fascinating look at not just getting into service and flying the famed apache gunship, but also a unique view from Britain's first apache pilot. Very detailed and without any overt feminism and gloss, this book would be a worthwhile read coming from a man or a woman. The fact she is a "trailblazer" makes it all the more fascinating and the action is thick and fast. If you have read Ed Macy's apache accounts then this is a must to complete the experience!

some books just have it, great plot believable characters, incredible detail..there is only one way to make this story better, read it and ed macy’s book you will get two different paintings of the same scene, I've read both since again..I wish she would write more..

Having read Apache and Hellfire I am somewhat disappointed with this book. Though, I appreciate that Charlie is writing an autobiography and the others were more focused on particular events. This is a good insight to the female perspective of a male dominated environment.

The part about her personal ups and downs is fine. Otros certainly helps the bystander to understand the attitude of the public towards their military forces but I expected more narrative on the actual combat ops. Ed Macy did in Hellfire.

I really enjoyed this book. Enough about helicopter technology and weapons and enough action to satisfy the boy in me. Moreover this is one of the most down to earth accounts of warfare I have read. Right down to what the loo are like. It really puts you in Afghanistan in Charlotte's shoes. I have read a number of books on the Afghanistan war, mainly focusing on helicopter warfare. this really is the best by far. Have also heard Charlotte interviewed in the UK and NZ. Love to meet her.
Highly recommend the book.

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