



Forgotten Soldiers (What Happened to Jacob Walden)

Warren Martin

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Cold War saga about Air Force Captain Jacob Walden shot down over Vietnam in 1970 and the untold story of why he never returned home. Forty years later Journalist Ted Pratt investigates what may be the sudden reappearance of Jacob Walden and follows the trail to find Jacob. Ted encounters Charlie Smith, a secretive and seasoned Operative who may have answers to the question about "What Happened to Jacob Walden," and why Jake never returned home.

Forgotten Soldiers (What Happened to Jacob Walden) Details

Date : Published May 12th 2012 by Warren Martin Books & Little Elephant Publishing (first published April 21st 2012)
ISBN :
Author : Warren Martin
Format : Paperback 360 pages
Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction

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From Reader Review Forgotten Soldiers (What Happened to Jacob Walden) for online ebook

Tena says

As I read this book, I completely forgot it was fiction! It is written in such a manner that it is very easy to believe it is a true story.

Becca says

I agree that it could have benefited from an editor but the basic premise is fodder for a very enjoyable story.

Merrie Harris says

So far this book has been interesting. I am reading the Kindle Edition, which so far has been very distracting with the grammatical and spelling errors. These distractions aside, I've definitely found myself somewhat unwilling to put the book down. This book definitely offers a very different perspective on a time in history. I will update this review when I have finished reading the book. So far I am half way through.

Having finished the book, I must say this book is highly recommended. The story, though fiction, isn't nearly as far fetched as some would like to believe. The world perspective is very interesting as well. Definitely plays on the conspiracy theory mongers among us, but again not so far fetched that at times you do question if the book is fact or fiction.

Bernard Cenney says

A fantastic novel. Tantalizing. A great read. Destined to become a classic.

"Forgotten Soldiers-What Happened to Jacob Walden" is the cleverest thriller I have read this year! It has all the elements of true suspense. Unlike countless other mystery-thrillers, this one was written by a seasoned professional Special Forces soldier. The author, Warren Martin, has plunged into his rucksack of knowledge and experience and crafted a tale that will keep you in suspense until the final page. I highly recommend it.

Bernard Cenney
LTC (R)
US Army

Mike says

I found this to be a compelling read. It is written in a historical style and it would be very easy for me to believe that this is a true, rather than fictional story.

Jeffrey Miller says

To tell a good story you need some kind of narrative device that brings the reader in and then, once you have the reader, to keep them wanting more. That's what Warren Martin does in his debut novel, "Forgotten Soldiers: What Happened to Jacob Walden." The title alone is enough to entice a would-be reader to find out what actually happened to Jacob Walden. And once you start reading, Martin keeps on enticing you with this remarkable book.

The story itself is an intriguing and captivating one, though I would have liked the author to show more than tell, especially some of the prison scenes. The story would have more effective and gripping had the author make those scenes resonate strongly; instead, the reader is left wanting more. While I was reading those scenes, I wanted to feel, hear, taste, and see more

Prison scenes aside, what keeps the reader's interest throughout the book is what really happened to Jacob Walden; it's what drives the story from page to page. Martin has a good story to tell and his heartfelt undertaking is not to be underestimated.

Frank Marsalek says

Lynn Hallbrooks says

I meet Mr. Martin through some Military Writers Society of America members.

This book is listed as Historical Fiction but reads like history, or as one of my teachers once told me: His Story.

From the first page, readers know that Jacob Walden dropped into a heap of trouble. What happens after that is believable account of one man's journey through Hell and beyond. After you read it, you may even ask yourself, how could this happen?

Other than some formatting issues, I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in the Cold War era. For those that don't know much about that time period, there is a great glossary. There are even pictures that could help expand the reader's imagination.

Caroline says

Captain Jacob Walden and his plane get shot down in Vietnam in 1970, ejects to safety, only to be captured by farmers, is marched through jungles and is later turned over to the North Vietnamese. And therein begins a horrific tale of his captivity under the torturous hands of the Vietnamese and later the Russians as, not a POW but a criminal for well over 30 years. His years of isolation, torture, starvation and the effect they have on him physically, mentally an emotionally makes for hard reading sometimes, but the character studies of some of his fellow prisoners, the prison guards and his torturers make this a compelling read.

References are made throughout the book to historical events during the time of his captivity, including the storming of the Son Tay prison camp, Jane Fonda's infamous visit to the Hanoi Hilton prison, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the fall of the USSR.

It's not a perfectly written book but if you can close your eyes to some misspellings, grammatical errors and a one or two errors in the details, resulting from, I think a lapse in the author's concentration and oversight by the editorial staff, this is a gripping read.

What I wondered reading this was, how much of this is pure fiction and how much of it is based on what actually happened to some of the soldiers whose bodies remain missing since WWII or have been declared dead as a result of errors or cover-ups.

Linda says

I find it hard to believe this is a book of fiction! I thoroughly enjoyed it and found it hard to put down.

Phyllis says

A very enjoyable, easy summer read! The author kept the story moving and provided enough realistic, historical detail that made you want to not put the book down. I look forward to reading other books by this author.

John Nevola says

Warren Martin obviously had a gripping and compelling story to tell and he wove a heart-wrenching tale into *Forgotten Soldiers*. One cannot read this book without both wondering what happened to so many of our MIAs and becoming determined never to forget them.

I noticed some have complained that the first version of the book was fraught with editing errors but Mr. Martin has gone the extra mile to correct them and provide an updated version. Others have been critical that perhaps 4 and 5 star ratings were given to this book solely to promote sales and the buyers/readers were somehow cheated. Mr. Martin has also addressed that concern by providing free downloads of the new version of his book. It is clear to me that his motivation is more about telling a story that should never be forgotten than making a few dollars. Perhaps the story resonates better with those who have served?

Thank you for your service, Mr. Martin and for your determined effort to pass the torch to the next

generation. I can wholeheartedly embrace this story while at the same time recognize and overlook the few deficiencies in style. If you wrote it so that the missing would always be honored and remembered, you have accomplished your mission. Soldier On!

John E. Nevola - Author of *The Last Jump - A Novel of World War II*

John Podlaski says

Forgotten Soldiers - Fiction?? I wonder... April 23, 2012

By John Podlaski

Although this is a work of fiction, the story could very well have happened and none of us would have been the wiser.

Captain Jacob Walden, 24, had only been in Vietnam for a month when his plane is shot down in 1970. He ejects safely, only to be captured by farmers loyal to the enemy. The author chronicles Jacob's 400-mile trek on foot through the jungles - northward toward Hanoi where he can be turned over to the proper authorities. Jake's entire world takes a flip upside down when his captors inform him that Vietnam is not at war with the United States, therefore, the Geneva Convention does not apply. Jake is not a POW, instead, he is judged a criminal and sentenced to prison.

Thus began his daily ritual of torture, starvation, inhumane treatment and isolation. Thinking his life could not get any worse, Jake soon discovers how wrong he is when a masochistic Russian Major takes over the interrogation and torture.

The author uses real events in his story such as the historic U.S. raid on the Son Tay prison camp to rescue seventy American prisoners - a location only 23 miles west of Hanoi, Jane Fonda's infamous trip to the Hanoi Hilton Prison in North Vietnam, and the fall of the Russian empire.

Thirty-six years later, Capt Jacob Walden is officially pronounced dead by the United States government. A reporter and Jacob's brother do not believe this to be true and set out on their own to find proof to the contrary. What they find instead is shocking! To tell anymore would be a spoiler - you'll have to read this fine story on your own to see how it ends. Warning: you'll stay up late into the night reading because you won't be able to stop. Highly recommended! Great job Warren!

John Podlaski, Author

Cherries - A Vietnam War Novel

Jamey Mast says

I really could not put this book down. Jacob Walden a downed pilot during the 70's Vietnam War era remained a prisoner till someone found he was still alive even nthe government deckared him dead. His family went on with their lives until an event turned all ntheir worlds into a mystery no one would ever hear about. After thirty years in camps and the torture ho make a choice. Charlie was the reason he became free and they and the other survivors of two groups would be allowed to live when many others died . Jacob Walden made the choice none of us should have to make. Makes you wonder after reading this book whether it could be based on some fact. bI received this book nfree from readingn deals to read and give a fair and

honest review.

Darryl Greer says

Warren Martin's fictional novel "Forgotten Soldiers" spreads across four decades from 1970 to current day. The lead character is Captain Jake Walden, in the earlier part of the story, a 24-year-old flying a sortie in Vietnam during the war. While he is able to eject and land safely he is almost immediately captured by a small group of Viet Cong or at least farmers loyal to the VC. There then begins a 400 mile jungle trek towards Hanoi where he will be handed over to the authorities. When he arrives he is treated to the news that, according to his captors, the United States is not at war with North Vietnam, that the Geneva Convention is irrelevant, thus he is to be treated as a common criminal. The author then chronicles Jake's daily rituals of torture, virtual starvation, despair and isolation. Interwoven with the main story of Jake's desperate attempt to survive each day, is the backstory of what is happening back in the States in the current time. While Jake had been officially pronounced dead by the US government, a journalist and Jake's brother don't believe this to be true and set out on their own journey of discovery. To reveal their findings would be a spoiler but suffice to say it will take the breath away. Although the book is a work of fiction it is written as though it is non-fiction, complete with actual photographs. There are scenes where the fictional story is interwoven with actual events, dates and places making the saga even more realistic. There is even a helpful glossary of terms and references at the end.

Given Warren Martin's experience and background (he was a Green Beret) the realism in "Forgotten Soldiers" is unsurprising. He tells the story as one who knows. Where research has been necessary it has been meticulous. The opening scene in the prologue is dramatic, hooking the reader straight into the action. As Jake's life as a prisoner goes from bad to worse and despair really sets in the reader feels for him, as though he is a real life character experiencing a living nightmare of Kafkaesque proportions. Almost at every turn in his trials and tribulations one feels the tendency to will him on to survive, to keep going, to never to give up. The denouement is almost a welcome relief — as well as a surprise — from the desperate scenes that precede it. But where the book falls down is its lack of a professional edit. An editor is noted at the outset but the text screams out for a lot more work. It is far too "wordy" and would benefit from a razor-like slashing of 20 to 25 percent of the text. If that were done, it would turn the book into a really great novel, and a war story with a difference.
