



Battleground

W.E.B. Griffin

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W.E.B. Griffin is a bestselling phenomenon, an American master of authentic military action and drama. Now, in this electrifying new novel, he reveals the story of one of the bloodiest conflicts of the Pacific, the epic struggle for Guadalcanal...Daredevil pilot Charles Galloway learns the hard way how to command a fighter squadron. Lt. Joe Howard teams up with the Coastwatchers. Jack "No Middle Initial" Stecker leads his infantry battalion into the thickest of fighting, at a terrible price. And Navy Captain Pickering grabs a helmet and rifle to join the ranks at Guadalcanal...

Battleground Details

Date : Published (first published January 16th 1991)

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From Reader Review Battleground for online ebook

David says

Another thrilling entry in the Corps series, maybe the best one yet...and that's saying a lot. An eye-opening account of the early days of the war in the Pacific.

Scott says

Half-hearted stab at combat reporting, this volume offers a lot of narratives and the death of no notable character. The climax is weak because it doesn't tie anything together and involves only one or two characters. The bulk of the novel involves Marines pushing papers and divulging national secrets to blueblood patrician types that run the show anyway. Very little battleground action, maybe three pages and another page and a half of dogfighting. That's out of almost 500 pages. There is about 10 pages of sexual situations, old-fashioned notions of good girls and bad girls. Writing is engaging, would read another volume in series.

Matthew says

No killer McCoy minus a star, still a great series to read.

Steve Moseley says

This is another great book in "The Corps" series. More than about a shoot'm up bang bang type of book, this series is about the lives of group of men and women both in and out of uniform (mostly in uniform), and how the Second World War transforms their lives.

Not that there is no action in this book there is, but thrust of the story focuses more on the characters during that action than the action itself which makes reading about it even more powerful.

There are some new characters in this book that play an important role in the outcome of this story and they are introduced pretty seamlessly. One is Sargent Moore who is an American who happened to have lived in Japan most of his life and speaks fluent Japanese.

My only gripe in this book is that the character that really made me love this series in the first two books, Lieutenant "Killer" McCoy, has only made a cameo in the third and this the fourth book. Hopefully, Griffin bring him back later on in the series in a more prominent role.

Bob Conner says

I fell in love with Griffin's series about the Corps and have read all his awesome works. I can't recall reading a more engaging series with characters all so rich and colorful each of them could be an awesome novel of their own. But Griffin smashes them all together into one nuclear story.

Amazingly colorful characters - Kenneth "Killer" Kelley and his gorgeous wife Ernestine Sage, Jack "NMI" Stecker, Pick Pickering, Sgt Zimmerman, etc..... The list just goes on and on and they never lose their color, their connections to one another, or their vitality throughout the entire series.

I found Griffin's ability to play his characters off of historically real people, events, hell, even US companies were woven into this amazing work, from hotel chain owners to ship builders were played into his storyline.

Once I read the first - "Semper Fi," I was waiting in line for the bookstore to open on release day for the next in the sequence.

Most certainly my all-time favorite military fiction novels. Well, until the Brotherhood of War series came out and claimed some shelf space for my favorite(s).

If books were drugs, there would be no rehab that could fix this addiction.

Billie Bogart says

This series is a great read, but you should start from the beginning as it is really just one long story. I love all the military detail. You'll like the books if you liked John Wayne war movies. It captures an idealized culture where men are men and women are accessories.

Kevin says

Another really good book in W.E.B. Griffin's "The Corps" series. There is only one flaw and it is rather major. I am becoming very annoyed by the overlapping timeframes between books. Only about 20% of this book was new material, the rest was timeline that was already covered just from different perspectives. It gets a little frustrating when you are reading about someone and don't know who it is because he's already been promoted in a previous book. I got a little lost at first and it greatly annoyed me. Here's hoping the next book doesn't have so much overlap.

John says

It's a good read but also a great deal of bad history. McArthur's proposal to invade Rabul in the fall of 1942 was pure fantasy. The Navy could barely scrape together the assets to land the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal in August - they could not stay long enough to unload properly leaving the Marines short of food, ammo, heavy equipment and personnel. The Navy's assets were hardly sufficient to keep the 1st Div from starving and they lost a great many ships trying to fend off the determined Japanese counterattack. McArthur's plan to land 4 division near Rabul was a pipe-dream and would have placed the US fleet in the heart of Japanese air coverage.

So ignore the character's smitten hero worship of McArthur and just enjoy the action. The struggle of the 1st Marine Division and the Cactus Air Force in one of the most significant in American military history. Griffin gives the reader just a taste.

Will says

The Front End of Guadalcanal. As the US is drawn inevitably to Jap buildup efforts on Guadalcanal, the Marines make a poorly prepped launch to the Solomons as Flem Pickering inserts himself into the Guadalcanal landing and ends up the G2 of 1st Marines by default. He is hurried off the island to preserve MAGIC protocol but assumes command of his rescue DDG when the skipper and XO are killed by a Jap dive bomber. Galloway is shot down in the initial Jap raid on the operational Guadalcanal field, but is rescued by a PT boat as the next chapter is begun.

Ronald Wise says

Book IV of *The Corps Series*. I had to skip Book III because my library no longer has a circulating copy. It seemed like the action continued not long after the conclusion of Book II, *Call to Arms*, and indeed covered the summer months of 1942. At the conclusion of this book I realized that these books were not as much about the war itself, as about the individuals involved. The historical facts blend seamlessly into the fictional, though I assumed the action on Guadalcanal is based on historical fact. This series was recommended by librarian Nancy Peary in the "World War II Fiction" recommendations of *Book Lust*, and was seconded by my appreciation of the author's later book *Death and Honor*.

Howard Anders says

This is Number Four in Griffin's series on the Marine Corps, and a most welcome re-read for me. A couple of new characters are introduced. Most of the action takes place in and around the Solomon Islands. The battle for Guadalcanal was one we were not ready for, even though it was a necessary operation. It exposed a lot of weaknesses in American doctrine and methods, which had to be corrected for the US to win in the Pacific. It also corrected many of our misconceptions of the Japanese as opponents. This novel brings all of this out, in the entertaining format Griffin's readers are familiar with.

Brad T. says

Slow moving. Repetitive

Katie says

This is probably my second favorite book in the series so far, after the first one. For a couple books I felt a

lot of new characters were being introduced and in this one you get some payoff of things coming together more...less new characters, more checking on Marines you've grown attached to. I enjoy the fact that these books aren't so much combat oriented as intelligence oriented and about good people fighting through red tape and stupid bureaucracy to keep the war going in America's favor. I am a Marine wife so I chuckle at the things that still seem the same today and joke to my husband that he probably wishes some of these guys were in his chain of command. Love it.

Bjoern says

Quite an improvement after the last volume, as all the threads are intertwining again and the new characters introduced then find their place in the ensemble of the first two books.

Of course that means first that there is a lot of repetition of the timeline, showing what the other main characters have done up to the end of counterattack, but it doesn't really get boring, cause they don't live again through the same situations, but have all their own encounters...

On the other hand W.E.B. Griffin has done one thing a bit TOO often for my tastes: the thing with the marine going out to the war, finding a nice lady, living some days of luxury and so on. If it was a strain on the suspension for disbelief after the first half-dozen guys who did it, it doesn't really improve when the count grows higher and higher.

Sooo... not the best book i've read, but very interesting stories, believable, if maybe sometimes overdone characters and a time that is the ideal background to show how heroes grow to be heroes. What might the heart of the avid historic novel reader desire more?

George says

Familiar characters are cast into the battles with Japan near Guadalcanal and parts of Australia. Strong characters and great writing interweave with real people and events. I particularly liked the idea that the Sgt who knows too much is assigned to a combat unit by unknowing. I chuckled because I've seen the effect of too much secrecy. The climax is weak because it doesn't tie anything together and involves only one or two characters. This seems typical with Griffin's [series] books--the individual books blend, at the end, into one long memory.
