



Special Forces - Soldiers

Aleksandr Voinov , Marquesate , Vashtan

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Special Forces is the story of a Scottish SAS soldier and a Soviet spetsnaz soldier. Two enemies who meet in the line of duty during the early days of the Soviet Union's last war in Afghanistan. Behind enemy lines respect and finally love grow ... but that's only the official version. This epic spans across over twenty-five years of their lives. It's harsh and violent, but life is cruel and they just do what they need to survive.

Special Forces - Soldiers is the first cycle of the Special Forces epic, which consists of three cycles and is about a million words. The second cycle is Mercenaries and the third one is Veterans.

This print version is the original version of Special Forces (1st edition), as it was edited by the authors of the time of first publication on Marquesate's website. The Soldiers cycle was published between July 2006 and March 2007. This is the only version that is authorised by Marquesate.

The ebook version is available for free download, and the original chapters remain as a free read on Marquesate's website below:

This print version of Special Forces is strictly non-profit and print cost only. The paperback of this original version is available from Lulu.

Special Forces - Soldiers Details

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From Reader Review Special Forces - Soldiers for online ebook

JV says

"We're both lost, comrade. We are in a war we don't want to be in, we're both on the wrong side of it, and all we get out of this is... Enough to keep me going."

I would give all the stars in the night sky for this book! This is absobloodylutely a hell of a rollercoaster ride from start to finish.

Two men. Two worlds apart. Death — their constant companion. Two enemies fighting a war — Special Forces soldiers, dispensable pawns under a command and performing their duties.

Vadim Petrovich Krasnorada, erstwhile an Olympic pentathlete, has been recruited by the Soviets to serve as a Spetsnaz soldier in Afghanistan. Daniel Ewan McFadyen, a British SAS soldier, has been assigned to train Afghans as part of guerrilla warfare against Russia. As paths crossed and each driven by their pain, hatred, desire, lust, vengeance, and aggression, their world will never be the same again. Amidst the darkness that was lingering between them and as they strive to endure the brutal landscape of Kubal and the Afghan mountains, they found mercy, forgiveness, and finally, love and respect for each other.

"'You...' just you, always you. My Russian cunt, my enemy, my comrade, my prisoner, my gaoler and my life. Words, unthinking. 'Love...you.'"

This novel is primarily character driven. With fleshed out and supporting characters, I was deeply immersed in the storytelling. I love Baroness Margaret de Vilde! She reminds me of Dame Judi Dench with fortitude, wit, and class. And Katya? She's really Vadim's noble protector. Aside from the characters, there's also humour, violence, gore, death, banter, and heart-pounding action scenes. Since this is erotica coupled with BDSM themes, the heat meter in this novel just went through the roof! However, my only quibble with this one is the sex scenes. It's just too much "in-your-face sex" for the likes of me. To be honest, some of it is quite redundant and tightening the whole narrative — no pun intended — and removing repetitive sex scenes would have a greater impact in its entirety, but nevertheless, naughty and hot AF. Oh wait, let me call Charlie for a titillating and metaphorical demonstration:

I'm not ready for another Vadim and Dan cycle, but I just couldn't stop thinking about them. These two will always have a special place in my fragile heart.

"'Best time in my life — everything's just noise. Noise and smoke. I'd die for you, Dan. No questions asked.'"

"'No, Vadim. No.' Dan's dark eyes were unforgivingly intense. 'You must not die for me, not ever. You must live for me, you understand?' His fingertips rested on Vadim's face. 'Give me your word, you will live for me, whatever happens. Even if I never see you again. I need to believe that somewhere, out there, you are alive.'"

An intense read for M/M romance fans! For now, I'm dog-tired and need some breathing space.

"We've been through everything bad. There might just be something good in the end. If the universe was fair."

Baba says

5++++ stars.

Dan. Always.

"All is fair in love and war."
- by Francis Edward Smedley

"Hatred ever kills, love never dies. Such is the vast difference between the two. What is obtained by love is retained for all time. What is obtained by hatred proves a burden in reality for it increases hatred."
- by Mohandas K. Gandhi

Fantastic! A-mazing with a capital A. Honestly, *Soldiers* just blew me away.

Special Forces is the story of a Scottish SAS soldier and a Soviet spetsnaz soldier. Two enemies who meet in the line of duty during the early days of the Soviet Union's last war in Afghanistan. SF is an epic because the story of Dan and Vadim spans twenty-five years of their lives.

Special Forces--Soldiers is the first cycle of the Special Forces epic. Dan and Vadim are "meeting" for the first time in August 1980, in Kabul. The second cycle is *Mercs I and II* (2 books) and the third one is *Veterans*. The whole epic comprises around one million words. Take your time and read it.

Enemies...from hatred to love.

One million words of:

Anger. Hatred. Torture. Violence. Cruelty. Pain. Swearing. Agony. Anguish. Crying. Despair. Stress. Franticness. Blood, sweat and tears. Death. Insanity. Awfulness. Doubts. Separation. Communication. Lack of communication. Miscommunication. Tension. Frustration. Satisfaction. Lust. Need. Passion. Sex. Tenderness. Vulnerability. Dedication. Heroism. Mercy. Hope. Darkness. Shadow. Light. Happiness. Gratitude. And above and beyond...despite all the misgivings a deep-rooted love.

Prayer beads. Vadim's gift to Dan.

So many books pale compared to SF—a mere dust in the wind, vanished into ***Nothing***. SF is pure insanity in its intensity, gripping from the get-go, oh-so shocking, brutal and ugly at times but this story will consume you and swallow you whole. As a matter of fact, the words and characters will cut right through your heart. The authors did a superb job at portraying two multi-layered and battle-scarred characters. War is showing its ugly and gruesome face. And yet I loved to see that among all this insanity there is honor to be found.

Dan said he is not a good man but at his core he is honorable because he spared Vadim's life when he called to him as a soldier or when he tried to shelter the young German soldier.

"You want to know why I didn't cut your balls off, stuffed them down your throat and watched you die? You want to know it? I don't give a shit about you, Russkie, family kids, wife, village, country, beliefs, sexuality or not. I don't give a flying fuck. I saw you take down the village, I watched you bring out the mothers by splattering their children's brains into the dirt. You call yourself a killer? I call that a murderer, and if you had died under my hands, cunt, I would have been one of you. And that's why you live--no more, no less, no other reason. I didn't continue because you asked for the mercy to die as a soldier, because you called to me as a soldier, and that's what I am."--Dan

I adored Dan's deep, deep love for the Afghan mountains. Further, I adored the interaction between Dan and the British ambassador, Baroness de Vilde (Maggie). What he did for her is invaluable but she knows it, and she gave back by being loyal, very supportive, understanding and caring. Always. A true lady made of steel, however, at her core she is utterly kind-hearted. Throughout this epic I came to really like Vadim but then again, there is no love lost between him and me. My emotions are all over the place when a man is raping men because he enjoys to do it and when he has no qualms whatsoever to kill innocent children and women. My friends know where I stand and I will admit it's a somewhat lonely place to be. Yes, he made mistakes, he is flawed. However, all the Dan bashing is kinda depressing and not really fair because there are *reasons* why he changed. And please *"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."* Isn't it rather convenient to forget about that? With that said, I'd appreciate it if we could differentiate a bit more.

Enemy mine. An "enemy" in a wilderness of insanity

"It's another first today." He paused. "You seem to be the one for firsts," his breath caught, "and lasts and always." --Dan

"Tell me what do you remember?"

"I don't want to talk." Dan's neck muscles tensed resisting Vadim's hand. He didn't know the words and he didn't want to search for them. "I just want to feel. But no, that wasn't it. "I want to feel human." --Dan

What follows suit is my favorite love scene. It was not about sex—it was so much more and went way deeper. It's **love**.

"You..." just you, always you. My Russian cunt, my enemy, my comrade, my prisoner, my gaoler and my life. Words, unthinking. "Love...you." --Dan

Couldn't hear his own groans echo in the cave, mind screaming for release, knew he'd do anything, absolutely everything for this man, suck him, kill, kill himself, run away, be something else, anything else, everything just blurred, darkness, a place inside that only held him and Dan. Nobody else, nothing else, no time, no place, no affiliations, no past, no future. --Vadim

First and foremost Dan and Vadim's "relationship" is about a profound lust and need. Their internal tensions are very palpable and engaging. But there's no going back--their relationship evolves slowly yet steadily and it's so incredibly rewarding to see them fall in love with each other. The sex is rough and edgy and that's why I treasured the rare moments of tenderness all the more. Death was always hovering over their heads and the reader has a hard time to really believe in their HEA. Well, you know the saying *"Good things come to those who wait."*

The ending of *Soldiers* is emotionally charged, frantic and full of despair and angst--I could feel the goose bumps on my skin. In fact, it will leave you absolutely breathless and wanting for more. While the war had kept them together, peace was tearing them apart.

Warning

Even though I can't recommend this epic enough, please be aware that *Special Forces* contains very graphic violence, language and sex. It's not for the faint of heart.

*"Hold me," he murmured with a strained voice. "Just f***ing hold me."*

This review can also be found here:

<http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

If you decide to give this epic a go then read the *Special Forces: Soldiers Part I -Director's Cut*.

Rosalinda *KRASNORADA* says

"I met Vadim in 1980 under circumstances that I cannot repeat. We were hell-bent on destruction at first. Enemies: two soldiers, Soviet spetsnaz and British SAS. But it changed, [...], it all changed completely over the years"

This book, amig@s! **HOLLY FREAKING HELL this book!** There are NO words in ANY language to describe what I felt while reading this EPIC story.

Spectacular!

Outstanding.

Lyrical

Dark

Impressive

EPIC!!!

Real

Simply THE BEST!

SOLDIERS changed something in me. I am dead serious. I can't take those characters off my mind, I am constantly thinking about them as if they were real. Like I wonder what they are doing right now and that is weird. But I can't help it.

I remember the first time I started reading this book I could not understand why people loved it so much. If you've read it, you'll know the scene I am talking about. I hated Vadim with all my soul, I wanted him dead and I wished the worst for him. So I stopped reading the book, that was before Xmas.

A few weeks ago after a few MEH books I decided to pick it up again and I just wanted to KILL MYSELF (literally) for not reading this gem before.

Soldiers tells us the story of Vadim & Dan, two war enemies who met each other under the worst circumstances. That's all you'll get from me about the story. I freaking HATE spoilers and I want all of you to go blind when reading this (although most of my buddies have already read it anyway).

The writing style was exquisite, sometimes it was like reading poetry, I kid you not. My absolute favourite character was Vadim even though I started hating him but something changed (as Deirdre would say, this is due to Voinov's character development skills).

I can't tell you how many millions of butterflies camped in my belly while I was reading this. Just one touch, one merely brush made my body shiver.

And this is not only the most epic story I've read in my life, this was also the most real one. I swear after all those books I've read before I thought my boyfriend had a fault or something. I mean, how many books have we read about guys having sex like 10 times in a row without giving their wieners some time to recover? I asked my boyfriend and he said that was bullshit but I kept trusting the books until I read Soldiers. Vadim & Dan always waited to recover before round two, they even didn't have a round two sometimes! I now know that I am going to marry the right person, thanks God!

I have started Mercenaries this morning and can't wait to know what happens with them (even if I cheated and I know how their story will end). Don't judge me, I never do it that way but I couldn't help it this time.

Sheziss says

[

(hide spoiler)]

Shelley says

This was um, I am just..

Have you ever read something that changes your entire perspective on rating everything you have ever read before? Everything before this pales, I want to go back and change all my five stars to fours and fours to three's! This deserves to up there all on it's own. **Nothing** I have ever read compares to this!

I will think of something to say later, I promise. But just let me think for a bit first.

Fierce!!! that's what this is. I know what it is to fall in love with apostrophes and swoon over comma's now.

Still thinking.....

Wynne Katherine says

Holy. Fuck.

What a fucking ride.

When I went in, I didn't expect this book to be that good, but fuck me if this book did not blow my mind away. Even though this has the classic enemy-turned-lovers plot, the storyline is always unpredictable in the best way. Even the sex is unpredictable and that's saying a lot.

The connection between the two is out of this world. I feel everything. Every touch, every kiss. Their loss, fear, love, lust, hatred, want, need. Everything. Literally by the time I was done with this book, I have been reduced to nothing but a big ball of feelings.

It has been so long since I have been able to truly ship and want to root for characters to be together and have their happily ever after so badly. I am happy that this book and these wonderful authors finally evoked those feelings and brought it all back into my system.

"I remember when I first looked at you. Really looked at you. I hated you. You were so goddamned perfect and yet so flawed. I thought I was better than you. How wrong I was. Without you, I would not be myself anymore, not even alive. Without you I'd probably be a drunken wanker, gibbering on about past glory, security guard in a parking lot, and drinking myself to death."

Now excuse me while I go and be gay and feel all the feels for Vadim and Dan in book two.

For more of my reviews, click : [here](#)

Susan says

Wow.

There was so much hype surrounding the entire Special Forces series that I was actually afraid to read it. After having finished Book 1 – Soldiers, I'm even more afraid than ever to move on. I am completely connected and immersed and bound to Dan and Vadim.

Aleksandr Voinov, who from this point onward in this review shall be referred to as “The Genius”, makes you EARN it in this book. It is an epic, sweeping, love story that spans years, but, not in the way where you just catch up with the characters 10 years later. You read each and every encounter between Dan and Vadim...painful, tragic, violent, twisted, tender, dysfunctional, physical, brutal, protective, loving. And then there is the 3rd main character, The War, always threatening to tear them apart, yet entirely the one that brings/keeps them together.

The Genius wore me out with painstaking detail and I was left feeling battered, beaten, exhausted and completely sated.

I found myself riding an emotional see-saw on how I felt about the characters: I hate him, I like him, I hate him, I love him...just as Dan and Vadim find themselves fighting understanding of who they are to one another: enemy, friend, enemy, lover. Back and forth, back and forth...until suddenly, without even recalling how it happened, I was totally drawn into a love story...pleading with The Genius to allow them to end alive, safe, and together.

The last chapter of the Director's Cut was easily the most intense LOVE scene I've ever read, both in its brutality and then in its tenderness. I was TORN UP by the end.

The book is both subtle and in-your-face and is so brilliantly written that it will take your breath away.

My heart feels raw...on to Mercenaries...

Thanks to Monique, Erin, Elizabetta, and Amanda for the Buddy Read. And to everyone else for the shoulders and support. I have a feeling we've only just scratched the surface...

Lena♥Ribka says

MUCH MUCH MORE THAN JUST 5 STARS!

I won't say **WOW!**

Because it is not enough.

Because it sounds trivially, banally, **GENERALLY.**

Because it is a way we use to talk about the books that we enjoyed, a kind of telling, "Hey, here is something that you have to read!"

This book is brutal and row.

It is distressing and cruel.

It is dramatic.

It is intense.

It is mesmerizingly insane.

It is painfully beautiful.

It is disturbingly poetical.

It is captivating.

It is incredibly hot.

It is intriguingly fateful.

It is highly emotional .

It is heavenly engaging.

It is very graphical, no matter if it is sex or violence scenes.

It is **DIFFERENT.**

It is **AMAZING.**

It is **STUNNING.**

IT IS ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS I HAVE EVER READ!!

This book is everything but not trivial, not banal, not USUAL.

This book has turned my world upsides down.

This book is like a revelation for me.

This book has emotionally drained, exhausted me.

This book changed my life.

I am lost. I am lost. I am lost. I am lost...

It was the greatest and the best reading experience I have ever had.

I have just discovered **my favorite genre.**

Who could imagine it some days ago? Definitely not me.

I have just discovered the next **one of my favorite authors** and his name is **Aleksandr Voinov.**

His writing is addictive, provoking, intense, real!..

From now on I am going to read **everything** he has already wrote and everything he'll write.

Vadim and Dan, soviet Speznaz and SAS soldier, they stole my heart. FOREVER. The character to die for... Their ways crossed 1980. Kabul. The Afghan war. The Cold war. Two enemies. From hate to love.

"There's no glory in this whole shit. No war is ever glorious. Heroes are usually dead. Besides, they rarely turn into heroes because they are super-humans, but because of circumstances. Heroes rarely think. Heroes just act. So, all this is, is a stage for glory, small, personal and up to each one of us."

My Dan...

My Vadim...

...the first year they met...

Incredibly fascinating love story.
Honest. Real. Authentic. Aroused. Exciting. Great.

"He'd do anything, absolutely everything for this man, suck him, kill, kill himself, run away, be something else, anything else, everything just blurred, darkness, a place inside that only held him and Dan. Nobody else, nothing else, no time, no place, no affiliations, no past, no future."

"When you're like this, Vadim, I want to own you, and taste you, burrow all the way into your body until I feel so much it fucking hurts and your scent clings to every pore. I want to hurt you, tear you apart, fuck you until you plead and scream and bleed, and all that, because I can never get enough of you."

"If all they had was Afganistan, then he'd make it bloody worth it."

"I'd die for you, Dan. No questions asked."

"No, Vadim. No." Dan's dark eyes were unforgivingly intense. "You must not die for me, not ever. You must live for me, you understand?" His fingertips rested on Vadim's face.

"Give me your word, you will live for me, whatever happens. Even if I never see you again. I need to believe that somewhere, out there, you are alive."

"Dan didn't want to say anything, but the words were unstoppable. "I fucking love you. Don't leave me. You've got to find me." Again, fucking tears. Vadim shook his head, then pressed his face into the crook of Dan's shoulder, hoped to hide his weakness and felt like a man condemned to die.

"I will... find you. If it's the last thing I'll do, I'll come back. Nothing will stop me."

My reviews are always my emotions. I don't describe a plot.

Just two words: **READ IT.**

IT WAS FUCKING BRILLIANT!!!!!!

P.S I have to add something that is very important. There are so many versions of the different parts of the trilogy. And I have maybe to correct my review according authors. I have no idea how a writing duo works but if the result look like THAT, I have no objection.

GREAT JOB, Marquesate and Aleksandr!!!

Moony Eliver says

The puppet could only sever the strings and refuse to walk, not walk of its own free will.

This gritty, rough, intense story owns me. OWNS. ME.

Sometimes when I am as enveloped as I became with this one, reviewing it is hard. Really hard. I lose my words. One of my friends who's buddy reading this one with me suggested that I take some of my text messages to her and turn them into my review. So I'm going to give that a shot.

It doesn't get more intense than the setting for this love story, where the characters are living in war

conditions that make our (well... at least *my*) problems seem downright insignificant. They save each others' lives many times over and it's so *real*. What makes it feel that way is not only the excellent storytelling (though it definitely is). But in reality, there are so many **true stories** like this — wartime relationships that kept people alive.

It's heartbreaking and hopeful and endearing and gut-wrenching all at the same time. And it's so damn three-dimensional that I felt like my real life was the fictional part of my world during the week I was reading.

So many things that I would normally gripe about — constant POV changes, typos all day long, stream-of-consciousness style writing that was riddled with comma splices — **I forgave every one**. Because when you've created one of the most epic stories on the planet, and then offered it for free, you get my amnesty. Which is worth nothing, but there you have it.

Note: I will be continuing with book 2 shortly, which I'm well aware contains content that many of my GR friends loathed. I have done my best to avoid spoilers about this, so if you want to discuss now or later in the comments, please employ the spoiler tag. ?? Thank you!

Nick Pageant says

BR with Mark.

Special Forces tells the story of Dan and Vadim, two soldiers on opposite sides during the Soviet war in Afghanistan. I'm going to use the same word a lot of people have used to describe this book - EPIC!

This is a roller-coaster ride. I started the book hating one of the guys and ended the book thinking he's one of the most romantic heroes I've ever had the pleasure of reading.

There are no tropes in this book, there is no romantic formula at work. This is a romantic adventure set on a grand scale and told on a grand stage. I loved, loved, loved it.

Is this a perfect book? NO! Does it deserve 5 stars? YES!

The problems I had with this book are, I think, going to be problems for others, so I'm going to list them. They are spoilerish, so read at your own risk.

(view spoiler)

Big, big thanks to Mark for inviting me along on this adventure!

Judith says

5+Stars.Loved it.

BR with Andrea.

I really have no words to describe how amazing this book is. The story of two men on opposing sides opens with a harrowing scene.

The story here spans over 9 years (my favourite thing) and takes place during the Soviet War in Afghanistan. One of the things I was worried about was the war element but it was extremely well written, not overdone with just the right amount of detail needed for the story.

My emotions were all over the place reading this. It's gritty, violent, hard hitting, very difficult to read at times but in the end a deep, all consuming love between two men. The final chapter was so beautiful....the words, the emotions and the uncertain future for them had me in tears.

Highly recommend.

Tara♥ says

*"There be dragons,
but there should be Nothing."*

I knew going into this that it was going to be a rough ride, this book is much beloved and because of that it is almost impossible to go into it without at least having a vague idea of what's to come. I knew three things when I started 'Soldiers'.

- 1) Dan and Vadim's relationship is born due to a violent rape perpetrated by Vadim
- 2) As retribution for this rape Dan eventually tortures Vadim
- 3) That somehow, somehow these two men would move from enemies to lovers

Those three things were really just the tip of a very big ice-burg when it comes to this book and these men.

Now even with all the positive reviews and the love that people have for Vadim and Dan I have to say I was sceptical. I really didn't see how such acts of violence could ever be overcome. The level of hate that consumed Dan was palpable and there seemed to be a rage in Vadim that was bottomless. It didn't seem possible that two people so lost, angry and flawed could ever find any kind of peace apart, never mind together.

I was born in 1982. 3 years after the Soviet war in Afghanistan began, owing to this and the fact that it was not a global war, I had little to no knowledge of said war going into this book. The only things I really knew? Russia was involved in a war in Afghanistan during the 80's and that ironically (due to later events that we

are all too familiar with) the US and UK aided the Mujahideen during this time. That was it. In fact I am ashamed to say that the only real knowledge I had of Afghanistan as a country before this book were the pictures I saw on the news and a heartbreaking awareness that a war that seems never-ending and is claiming the lives of far too many men and women is being fought there. I wasn't aware of it's beauty, I wasn't aware how harsh the climate was and I wasn't aware of the vastness, danger and wonder of its mountains. There are three main characters in this book. Dan, Vadim and Afghanistan. Whenever Dan and Vadim left Afghanistan I felt an inexplicable sense of loss. For better or worse Afghanistan, its mountains, Kabul and an ever so important teashop there was a part of them and their relationship, the words used to describe the country describe the men.

In the beginning I couldn't see a way to ever like a person like Vadim, his presence made me angry from the start, he was a stereotype of the young Soviet soldier who took what he wanted and consequences be damned. He was so full of rage and his thirst for power was so all consuming he couldn't see past it. My heart went out to Dan, the helplessness he experienced was difficult to witness especially for a man to whom power was also so important. Then in the mountains the tables turned. I willed Vadim to feel and express remorse because once he did I thought it would be okay for me to feel some pity for him at the hands of Dan. I couldn't feel for him unless he showed some remorse though, because in my mind this is how rapists should be treated. They deserve to be tortured, they take something that is not theirs to take, they take will and power so those things should also be taken from them. Vadim did not show remorse. He in fact never shows it and yet I couldn't stop myself from wanting Dan to stop. For feeling pity for Vadim. For wanting the pain that was being inflicted to stop. Somehow I overcame what Vadim did. I cannot explain how. I truly do not know. I just know that through the journey I took with Dan and Vadim I began to see something so much more than rape and torture. Two deeply flawed and damaged human beings find something that is so extraordinary there is no name to give it. The word 'Love' does not do it justice.

"Home. His only home. An 'enemy' in a wilderness of insanity."

There were many hard limits for me in this book, a lot of things made me deeply uncomfortable and yet none of it took from the story or felt like it was being added for the soul purpose of shocking the reader, it only added to it. I for one think that is an amazing achievement. I applaud the authors for their ability to incorporate shocking and unpleasant subject matters and make them work. I also wish to thank them for giving me Dan and Vadim.

This book has left me in pain. My heart aches and I feel utterly bereft and helpless. These men overcame so much throughout this story, they overcame mistakes they refused to acknowledge, atone to or even discuss. They overcame rage and anger, fear, loss and pain. They are soldiers, they are warriors. Yet when it comes down to it they are helpless and cannot overcome politics and the might of countries caught in a game that has no use for desire, no place for passion and no care for love.

"No one else, only his Russian, the darkness and light, hatred and love. Mirrors of each other; each the same, and both the opposite."

If you have not read this book I urge you to do so, it is not an easy read and not always a pleasant read but there is beauty to be found here, a beauty that is not often seen and it is stunning, it is gut wrenching and it feels real.

Throughout reading this two things kept coming to mind. Johnny Cash singing 'Hurt' and Ludwig van Beethoven's 'Immortal Beloved' letters. I think Beethoven's sign-off is the most fitting end.

*“Be calm - love me - today - yesterday - what tearful longings for you - you - you - my life - my all -
farewell. Oh continue to love me - never misjudge the most faithful heart of your beloved.
ever thine
ever mine
ever ours”*

Stacia (the 2010 club) says

3.5 stars.

I want you to do me a favor before you even read this review. I want you to think of every single thing that you know of which might offend or disturb you. Go ahead. Take a minute.

cue elevator music while we wait

You ready? Okay, now that you have your list, I want you to assume that most of your list is probably going to be covered in this book. I'm not kidding. There might be some limited spoilers ahead but these are the types of spoilers you'd want to know about before deciding whether or not to pick up a book this graphic in nature.

Descriptive Scenes of Rape? Check.

Haunting Acts of Torture? Check.

Offensive name calling? Check.

Need I go on?

This book is long and it is brutal. As well, a good portion of the book does involve graphic m/m sexual scenarios. Even though the point of the story is not about how much sex two people can have, it's probably not a bad idea to know ahead of time what you're getting yourself into, in case you need to back out now. In fact, I would encourage that you do so, because if reading the book and then listing out every single thing about it that bothers you would end up being what happens, then you might miss the reason for the point of the entire story.

However, if you find yourself captivated with stories of people overcoming extreme odds in order to be together, then do check this book out. Very few instances come along like this, where you find yourself rooting for the most unlikely of anti-heroes.

"You're talking bullshit, Russkie. Neither of us can forget who we are, nor what we have done."

There is no way to describe any of what goes on between the pages. All I can say is that love stories like this need to be told sometimes - maybe if for no other reason than to remind us why love is so precious and vital. For some people, it might make them long for a love so strong and enduring as this one. For me, it was a reminder of why I just might be one of the lucky ones.

Many people have come before me and written reviews, complete with lovely quotes and passages. You might want to go check out one of those reviews. I took many notes, but am finding that no amount of what I put in my review will begin to reflect what this book is.

Most of my friends gave *Special Forces* 5 stars and I understand why. I understand that the length of the book was instrumental in showing just how much Dan and Vadim had to go through in order to get to a place of acceptance and love. It's not unlike *Outlander* in that respect. Yet, I found myself getting antsy with some scenes which seemed to be nothing but a "different place, different time." So yes, this is sort of a weird catch. You can't cut out too much without losing the struggle. Yet, I didn't want to read some of it over again in a slightly different version. All in all, I still found myself invested with what was unfolding before my eyes. How could you not be, when two people who know better than to consort with the enemy still fight to be with the other half of their soul?

"Mine."

"I am."

"Forever."

Jan says

Re-read Jan 2019

Read April 2014

*****6 Stars*****

Dead. I'm dead.

Hands down the most brilliant, incredible, intense, powerful and realistic enemy to lovers story portrayed to date.

This first book spans across over 8 years of intense hate, pain, insane lust, passion, eroticism and love, making of *Special Forces* the most outstanding epic love story ever in my opinion.

I can't even.

It consumed me whole.

A raw diamond in the middle of thousands forgettable books I have read in the past.

This book will stay forever with me, in my memory and heart.

Do not click if you're a prude.

(view spoiler)

Shile says

RE-Read Jan 2019

Buddy read with these awesome ladies! Jan, Judith, Moony and Xia

Location: 13768

Story: EPIC

Dan and Vadim! Vadim and Dam!

5 ++++++ Aye, My Cunt, My Russkie stars

I enjoyed reading this amazing story, where the word cunt is actually an endearment. These authors sucked me in.

“You...” just you, always you. My Russian cunt, my enemy, my comrade, my prisoner, my gaoler and my life. Words, unthinking. “Love...you.”

Vadim and Dan's story is epic. The chemistry between these two was off the charts . They met in 1980 under very awful circumstances, from there an epic journey of hate and unconditional love that spans over 9 years begins. The enemies to lovers transition was very believable and enjoyable to read and well written.

I went through all emotions in the beginning, I hated Vadim wanted to skin him alive then that changed, I grew to love him and just like Dan he became special to me. I felt sorry for him especially when he was being tortured by Dan. Vadim is forever my book boyfriend. I love Dan but Vadim has a special place in my heart.

First i was like: no! i can't love him! he is a bad guy, we hate bad guys!

Then the authors were like: Wait! you just wait! you are going to love him!

Then i was like:

Then, they made me all hurt, gushy and mellow inside!

You fucking scared me. I can't deal with the fear. Not like that. Not like you tortured me in the mountains. Can't forget it, will never forget it. You damn near broke me with that. Without actually beating me up, no blood, just...fucked my mind.

Dan! aye was a complicated character it took time for me to warm up to him but I eventually did, i love him more the second time around. His love for Vadim was true and unconditional and I loved how he came to terms with him being gay, it was actually funny. His love and description for the Afghan mountains, made me feel like it was my home too.

Dan's grin turned the shadows into a play of fire, catching on rows of teeth. "You're a fucking creep, Russkie, with strange eyes, pale as those glaciers around here; " Shit. He was a goddamned fucking fag and he loved it. If cock-sucking-tasting-swallowing was what being a fag was all about, he wanted nothing but to be a fucking fag, with a five-star rating.

There were some moments in this book that were ugly crying moments. When Vadim found Dan helpless, and When Dan found Vadim injured, Gahhh! these two fools melted my heart. The way they took care of each other, that (view spoiler) scene though! Hmm! still not sure about it.

Dan twitched, his head jerking, moaned at a pain that was somewhere other than inside his body. He craned his neck, so close to the other's body, the heat was everywhere. "Don't let them take me."

Their first Kiss! That kiss was everything.. I melted.... Gaah!

Dan hadn't kissed anyone in so many years, he couldn't remember. He wasn't prepared for the intense sensation of heat flooding from Vadim's mouth, the simple pleasure of lips touching-moving against lips, and the new sensation of stubble. He'd never kissed a man; never in his whole life. Except...a kiss of death six years ago. Another first and last and always for--from Vadim. A rape—a kiss

Dan is a closeted romantic, he had some of the best swoon worthy word moments.

"You conquered me, got to this Special Forces bloke well and truly." His voice low and husky. "You could betray and kill me now and I wouldn't give a shit as long as you stayed close until I died."

The sex scenes were Hot! Rough! sweet! tender and everything in between.

Two 'enemies', and both the same colour, their blood. Red—for the Soviet Union—for Britain. Red in both their flags.

Thirty-two years, one rape, one touch, one kiss, one shot.

Vadim is the love of my life!

Davim tops my couples list as at January 2019!

Highly recommend.
