



Special Forces - Veterans

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

This print version is the original version of Special Forces, as it was edited at the time of first publication on Marquesate's website. The Veterans cycle was published between November 2008 and April 2009. This is the only version that is authorised by Marquesate.

This print version of Special Forces is strictly non-profit and print cost only. The paperback of this original version is available from Lulu: <http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback...>

The ebook version is available for free download, and the original chapters remain as a free read on Marquesate's website: <http://www.marquesate.org/special-for...>

Special Forces - Veterans Details

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From Reader Review Special Forces - Veterans for online ebook

Susan says

Done. I feel like I ran a grueling marathon...and came in first place! That exhausted. That elated.

I will miss you Vadim and Dan. You've changed my life...seriously.

Sorry to friends and family and DVR who have gone neglected.

Sorry to Goodreads community for being such a basket case.

Sorry to books and ARC's and Buddy Reads I passed over.

Sorry to the exclamation point for overusing you in every update, comment, and review.

The Review:

Veterans was the perfect ending to an amazing series. It felt like a salve, a balm, to roughened, raw, and damaged skin. It soothed all the parts that Soldiers and Mercenaries left damaged and scarred. And, again, in the end there was love. Love hard-earned - surviving Dan's downward spiral, Vadim's PTSD & therapy, a stalker, a pain-in-the-ass (I'm referring to Jean...ha!), additional sexcapades, children, old wounds, new wounds...

After 25 years, rape, torture, killing, war, injury, deception, lovers, manages, fights, and fisting...we finally get their Happily Ever After...till death do them part...

sigh

Thank you, Marquesate & Aleksandr "The Genius" Voinov for this masterpiece. I only wish that I had been one of the first to have read it so it wouldn't feel so "ordinary" and "expected" when I say how AMAZING Special Forces is and what a DEEP IMPACT it had on me.

Nick Pageant says

So ends the epic BR with Mark!

I'm not sure what I'm going to do now. I am lost. Review to come.

Camilla says

What's left to say after the first 3 reviews, really?

More of the same maybe?

I just finished the book, and I have to admit I'm a bit disappointed with the ending.. I would have liked.. Well, just a bit more than what we got..

Considering how the series begun and how many emotions, both good and bad, that we got through the whole series, I think it's weird how little emotion we got in the end, which should have been a really big thing.. A really big moment for them..

And if you've read my reviews of the first 3 books, you'll know how much I've cried over Dan and Vadim.. Nothing less than bawling my eyes out.. I've grown so close to these two guys, so the fact I didn't even get teary eyed at their wedding, is quite a statement to how much I really *didn't* feel it.. Or feel *them*, I should say..

I would have liked.. I don't know, just *something* more, I guess..

And if you've read my reviews of the first 3 books, you would also know how much I didn't like, how much I despised and hands down *hated*, how they slept with their "buddies".. Well, I could handle Vadim and Hooch for some reason, but Dan and Jean? Jesus Christ.. I hate Jean..

He's supposed to be one of the good guys, but I hate him more than I've ever hated a villain in any book.. Just. 100%. Pure. **Hate . Cheating bastard!**

The fact that Dan, after getting proposed to, by the guy he's supposed to love more than anything, goes straight to the phone to have phone sex with Jean, pisses me off to such a degree, I can't even begin to write it.. It makes me growl, grind my teeth and yeah, well, if you could see my face as I'm writing (and thinking) about that scene now, you would know how much I hated it.. That's just fucking pathetic and so disrespectful I can't even stand it..

After book 3 I was worried that I wouldn't get the ending I wanted.. I wanted some kind of "I love you, always you and *only* you"- hint, no more buddies - which I definitely didn't get, considering they were screwing everyone during their wedding days..

Anyway.. The last 3 books in the series, I'm glad I read, could have done without them though I think.. They made me more angry and full of aggression than anything else.. They definitely re-kindled my hatred for 'sharing' in stories, which I had overcome at one point.. Not so much anymore though.. Thanks for that guys!

I did give 2 & 3, 5 stars because they got to me, even if it was with negative feelings more than positive, but *this* one I can't give 5 stars, which is a shame, but hey, that's life..

The first book in the series though.. **That** one I'll take with me everywhere I go.. I'll cherish it and cuddle it, and keep it in my heart forever and always.. And in *my* Dan and Vadim world, there will always be them, and *only* them..

2 men, 2 soldiers. 2 lovers.

Tina says

That's it! The journey of twenty five years is over. No, that's not true, for Vadim and Dan the journey of their life together isn't over yet, but we are leaving them in the confidence that they'll manage their best years without us watching over them!

I totally agree with Suec (she buddy-read Mercs II with me - thx sweets:). Every emotional heart string has been pulled. Love, fear, pain, longing, devastation, euphoria, despair, anger, desperation and again and foremost, love.

Veterans is a worthy finalization of a life story that begins 1980 in the mountains of Afghanistan. Vadim and Dan have come a very long way from the two soldiers they have been when they first met.

They were both so fucked up in their own ways. How they cope and help each other in the end is so heart warming..

The first half of Veterans deals with what happened in Mercs II, and the rest of the book is concerned with wrapping up the plot lines of not only our main characters but also of just about everyone we've ever met along the way.

It's wonderful to see Dan and Kisa finally meet. They are honest with each other from the very beginning. And Vadim makes his peace with Nikolai and they become really close. I'm looking forward to read his story in Gold Digger and hope with all my heart to meet Vadim again. :)

Jean... I feel so sorry for him. All the years he's in love with Dan and despite the sex and the deep affection and friendship, he'll never get the chance to win Dan's heart over Vadim. Dan may need the open relationship, but emotionally he's monogamous. He loves Vadim, and no one else.

Hooch... how I love this guy. Our outward tough Delta Force soldier with the wounded soul and his loving and understanding partner Matt.

Maggie, the Baroness... a true friend to Dan and Vadim for nearly twenty years. It is so heart melting when Dan finally breaks down, hugs her and tells her he loves her.

Never in my life a story has left such a mark in my soul. The characters will live in my heart forever. It was epic, just epic...I can't recommend the series strongly enough.

Aleks (and Marquesate), thank you for one of the best series I've ever read!

Baba says

"A hard beginning maketh a good ending."

- by John Heywood -

"...I promise to respect, support and care for you, to honor and encourage you."

"...I will respect you as an individual and be true to you through all the changing scenes of life - in good times and in bad. I undertake to fulfill this promise until life's end."

"I give you this ring as a token of my love and a lasting reminder of the promises made between us today. I promise to care for you above all others and cherish you throughout the rest of our lives together."

After the re-read & buddy read I'll be editing my review.

Shelley says

25 Years!

And now it's over...

Living the last 25 years vicariously through a million words, taking me through the passage of time, places and seasons has been an experience I shall never forget.

Dan and Vadim, my warriors. You were my pain and my joy and I shall love you forever.

This story, the pleasure and the pain will forever be with me. All of it, every moment, every comrade, lover, friend or foe.

This was just the most emotionally charged, exhilarating, frustrating and heartbreaking adventure. If I ever read anything like this again, I will consider myself the luckiest woman in the world!

From the breathtaking mountains of Afghanistan, the dust of the Desert in Iraq, to the horror of the Balkans. I have been a slave to this epic story. An almost life changing experience for me. I cannot decide if it was an addiction or an all-consuming absorption or both?

Veterans is a fitting ending, in so much that everything has evolved, and to a point, resolved. There is no longer a physical war to be fought, but there is a war of the minds and internal emotions that has the potential to destroy everything. For me this was the hardest battle of them all.

Dan needs to escape his depression and self loathing and Vadim finally faces his own emotional trauma in a head on brutal fight for his sanity. Both these fights left me raw and desperate for hope again.

"You made me human. I stand by that. You made me into somebody I would have wanted to become, if I'd ever thought about what I wanted to be that wasn't about a record or power or a rank or some...delusion I was chasing. If all that was gone and stripped away, the man I am, I am because of what you did, what you made me feel all those years."

It's not an easy journey for Dan or Vadim. It was never meant to be, it was always going to be a hard won

victory to find peace, understanding and acceptance. Love was always there, the binding kind that seemed to conquer it all. That was never the question, was it?
But would it ever be enough?

Because it had all been a motherfucking nightmare and the solution was so simple, right there and under their noses. It had just been hidden: Love. Fair and square. Just love.

!

This book would have been the perfect closure for me, if it hadn't been for certain events in the end. (view spoiler)

You see, I think I have come to understand what has happened here. Why I feel the way I do.

The authors have changed the rules.

It's quite simple.

The rules of contemporary romance do not apply here. Certainly not when it comes to sexual faithfulness and exclusivity, and some other things too.

Christ, there are no rules!

My preconceived safe and sane romantic ideals have been beaten into submission with words and actions that defy my very moral and monogamous view of the world. The rules have been deleted and inscribed with a great big 'screw you, put this in your pipe and smoke it, this is what happens in a gay man's world' Now maybe I'm wrong, I don't know many gay men, but that was the message I got.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who held my virtual hand while I read these. Thank you for putting up with my tantrums and foul language, my gifs and my tears! I couldn't have got through it without you. You know who you are, I won't name names cause I scared I'll forget someone. But love to all.

I might not have loved all these books equally, but the series? **5 STARS!!**

Thank you to Mr Voinov and Marquesate for giving these books to us for free. I haven't spent a cent of my book budget this month and have decided to donate it to the Red Cross:)

Judith says

4 Stars.

An epic story. Yes, I've had many issues with this series but I wouldn't have missed reading it for anything. I've read all of it with my lovely friend Andrea.

Review soon.

Isabel says

25 years epically unforgetable!

It is very difficult to put in words everything that these books gave to me! There were so many different emotions, some good, some not so good, and others devastating! Pain, sorrow, joy, happiness... love... and every one of these emotions are nailed in my heart and my soul, and forever they will be!

I was, once again, drowned in a sea of feelings while reading Veterans! There were no more wars to fight, but there were fightings with traumas and depression! Dan and Vadim's love overcome everything... their beautiful, strong and powerful love!

I will never forget Dan and Vadim, one of my favorite couples of all times! They deserved HEA and they got it! The ending was so sweet... so tender... and there again were my tears... but tears of happiness!

Aleksandr Voinov and Marquesate are brilliant, they wrote an epic story, memorable!!!

A special thanks to my GR friend Shakisha, who gave me the motivation to read this series!!!

Christina says

*****Review contains spoilers*****

4.5 stars for the book but 5 stars for the series.

I just finished Veterans and what a sad day it is. I can't believe my journey with Vadim and Dan is over. Twenty-five years of passion, anger, violence, loneliness, torture and above all LOVE. I miss them already!

Veterans is the final book in Special Forces and although I did love it, I had a few problems with this book. My expectations were higher mainly because it was the last installment and I wanted everything tied up but it didn't quite reach that point for me.

In the beginning, Veterans gripped me and drew me in. Vadim and Dan had gone through so much over the years but to see them so emotionally disconnected was heart-breaking. They always had something between them even if it was anger but for them to be so estranged and practically accept being this far apart was horrible. Although, Vadim's outdoor excursion was perfect (took him long enough to get off his ass)!

The biggest problem was the ending. I was so happy they got married but I needed more and Vadim and Dan deserved more as well. The wedding was simply beautiful but not being able to see them make love for the first time after getting married really struck me in a bad way especially since this book severely lacked private Vadim and Dan time. Why not show more of Vadim and Dan and leave out some of the non essential people, such as Beauvais?

This leads me to my second complaint. Much of the book was focused on Dan and Jean's relationship. Dan and Jean have always irritated me but when I don't get more of Vadim and Dan and combine that with the ending, it puts me off in a very bad way. To see Dan fucking Jean and then to have Jean tell Dan he loved him was too much to take. Thank God Dan never said it back or elaborated on his feelings because that would have been the end for me.

There were many missed opportunities to see just Dan and Vadim together. Not only on their wedding night but also when Dan had to leave Vadim so he can begin his therapy and he asked Vadim to make love to him but we get nothing. This wasn't acceptable especially for the last book. Sorry, but I felt a bit cheated.

There were however, many beautiful moments: the tent scene, Dan wondering if Vadim will love him after his 3 month therapy, Dan meeting Kisa, Vadim resolving things with Nikolai, Dan telling Maggie he loves her, Vadim's reaction to Duncan calling him brother-in-law, and of course their wedding with the steel rings and Vadim's blue cufflinks.

Best LOL moment hands down goes to Hooch when he asked Jean at their first meeting "Did you cry?" Love Hooch and Matt but I thought it was so out of character for Hooch to make up with Jean.

And I couldn't believe Vadim's run in with Konstantinov. Wow, I really felt for him and never saw that one coming.

I thought the proposal was absolutely perfect. I loved how Dan was genuinely shocked and would only say yes if Vadim was marrying him for love and no other reason. I loved the part when Dan was staring at Vadim, thinking of the past... "*Vadim still was the man he'd always wanted. Everyone else, no matter who or where and what, paled in comparison to Vadim. His Russkie. His cunt. Dan smiled at last.*"

This was quite an intense journey. I cried, laughed out loud, got pissed (more times than I wanted) but as always I loved every moment with Vadim and Dan. Whenever I hear the words, lapis lazuli, the Afghan mountains, energy bars, and Russkie I will always think of Vadim and Dan and smile.

Thank you for one of the best series I've ever read!

Mel says

Veterans is the fourth book in the epic Special Forces series and it's the final part of Dan and Vadim's story. Unfortunately: it wasn't the ending this series deserved.

Don't get me wrong: this is not a bad book. And it breaks my heart to give it 3,5 stars, but Veterans just did not come up to the standards of the previous three books. It didn't show the same level of enthusiasm, attention to detail, depth or nuance as the rest of the series.

My major problem was that Veterans felt like an epilogue. A mellow epilogue. There was a lot of telling in stead of showing which decreased the intensity of the story and it seemed like a lot of loose ends needed to be tied in any way possible. To me, the rawness and honesty of the Special Forces series got lost.

In this series full of extremes, the authors always still managed to maintain some nuance and a vast amount of gray. Actions and characters were layered and often (morally) ambiguous.

This time some things were overdrawn, black and white, out of left field or downright over the top. The story just felt a little rushed and unfinished at times.

I also had trouble recognizing the characters in the beginning. Partly because of slight changes in writing style and partly because of some out of character actions.

I understand that times have changed and the men's change in age and lifestyle validates changes in thoughts and behavior, but the shift -to me- was very sudden.

So, it took me a while to get used to the new feel of the book, but once I did, I really did enjoy the story. Dan and Vadim are such phenomenal characters and it was great to be part of their journey in life, in a stage where they're getting 'old and decrepit', as Dan put it.

We revisited a lot of old characters and met some new ones, which all served its purpose in the development of the characters of the men and their relationship.

And even though I have the unreasonable wish for Dan and Vadim to stay young forever (as in their Soldiers time), there's no denying growing older becomes them.

It was truly exhilarating to be able to follow 25 years in the lives of Dan McFadyen and Vadim Krasnorada, and it is with an ache in my heart that I say goodbye to them.

Prayer beads, energy bars, boots, scars, blades, and a bullet.

And so ends the story of Dan and Vadim.

Julio Genao says

here's the thing.

this book—and the overall three-volume epic it concludes—isn't finished. it's semi-currently undergoing a righteous edit, and the difference between the edited text and the original is notable.

further, the fucking thing is massive. it is a work of staggering ambition—hubris, even—or maybe just balls the size of my head. a story that spans 25 years? a million words? yeah.

too much, in other words. too much to review with my typical mix of douchebag flippancy and stentorian gravitas. just too bloody much there.

and god forbid i try to summarize, as so many here on goodreads inexplicably feel compelled to do.

at length, naturally.

with gifs.

so what, then, does the mad dominican have left to say of such a book as this? what's left?

this:

it's not finished, it's not perfect, and it's not always very good. but when it is—and it is, for hundreds upon hundreds of pages at a time—it is nothing less than a work of comprehensive genius. it is simultaneously one of the more libidinously violent stories you can read... and one of the most romantic.

in fact, it wouldn't be anywhere near as gloriously sentimental without the heinously-devised tribulations visited upon the main characters.

this is some story, boy.

a casual glance at my gibbering status updates—quite literally a cry for help, on one occasion—confirms what i say: this story will thrill you, chill you, fuck your skull with razor cocks, leave you for dead in an alley in kabul, and then scoop up your bloody remains and make a sausage out of you.

and then it will make you cry like a ninny.

read this. at your peril—but read it. when it's done, when the authors are finished editing it and then release it, pay for it. maybe twice. it's completely blown my head up, and what more could you ask for, really?

besides (view spoiler), of course.

Sindhu says

BETRAYED!!!

That's how I feel. The story in 'Mercenaries' and 'Veterans' feels like a betrayal.

SF- Soldiers was incredible, not just a slice of real life. It was, first and foremost, a grand and magnificent love story. It described a love so extraordinary, so beautiful in its brutality and intensity, I was crying for days afterwards.

However, reading the Mercenaries cycle was like a punch to the stomach. What you get is a promiscuous Mad Dog with hardly any morals or sense of caring towards Vadim. Dan completely shattered me. The way Dan can supposedly separate love from sex (by which one means lots and lots of sex with anyone and everyone available) is plain creepy. What made their love so special in the first book, Soldiers, was their complete focus on and devotion to each other. But, in the Mercenaries cycle, and later Veterans, Dan is spending almost all his time and energy fucking everything in sight, especially Jean, which obviously leaves him hardly any time or energy to devote to Vadim.

He keeps saying that everything is about Vadim.

But, actions speak louder than words. When confronted with situations where he has a choice between Vadim and Jean (or anyone else, for that matter), he always chooses Jean (or whoever else the other one is). Not once does he make Vadim or Vadim's pleasure his priority.

To think that Katya was right about Dan all along – that he was a worthless piece of s***. He didn't even have the decency to admit to his love for Jean and set Vadim free (especially since Vadim could never gain the courage to demand monogamy from Dan although that was what Vadim really wanted).

Look at all the damning evidence.

During the run-up to his wedding, Dan has eyes only for Jean. He is passionately kissing and making out with Jean and not giving a damn about Vadim or where he is. He is fucking Jean like crazy but on his wedding night, he cannot even get it up for Vadim. What a way to treat his supposed true love.

I mean, the magnitude of selfishness and cruelty towards Vadim that he displays is astounding. UNFORGIVABLE!!! He is so far gone, I can't see a redemption for him.

Please, please, please, I beg of you, please give us an alternative version of events from the time Vadim returns to Dan after two and a half years.

Please either let Dan and Vadim rediscover that brutal and beautiful love they shared in Afghanistan. Let them feel anew that searing intensity that was totally reserved for each other.

Or, if you can't find it in your heart to change Dan, at least let Vadim get over him. Don't let him be a fucking doormat simply waiting for Dan to dole out crumbs when he can manage to tear himself away from Jean. Please take Dan out of the picture - his story is finished since he has found his soulmate in Jean, its Vadim who has been left standing all alone in the end, his entire life laid waste. Because, maybe, their relationship ran its course the day Vadim ran out on Dan after being released from captivity. Because Vadim deserves so much more. He deserves someone who'll love him unconditionally, with his whole body and soul (most definitely without eyeing others). It obviously can't be Hooch since he has found true love with Matt. Let someone new come into his life who will give Vadim what he needs.

Please give something for all of us romantics out there.

Angela says

I don't know. I really wanted to like this book. I basically finished the series as I had read the first two and wanted to know how the story would end. I still hate Jean and he was in this book a lot. He just rubs me the wrong way, which is great, if Dan hadn't kept sleeping with him. If Dan had stopped sleeping with him, I actually think I would have liked Jean more.

I'm peeved that Dan and Vadim weren't monogamous. I know this might be just me and yes perhaps I am all about the happy ever after I thought the book started off really well. I was riveted by the start and I did have a moment where I thought, this is going to be great, but once it got to the point where Dan and Vadim went to visit Jean after Pascal's death, I thought well the greatness in this story is gone. Then it felt to me like it descended into one big how many times can we fit sex in.

It angered me that even when Vadim said he didn't like them having sex with others, it carried on as apparently agreeable to both of them. Grr. Yes I know strong feelings.

I'm still a little shocked as I really loved Soldiers and now part of me wishes that I had stopped reading after the first book and just imagined my own ending. I think that would have made me happier.

Oh well, in my imagination I can pretend it never happened. I will definitely re read Soldiers again in the future, but won't be going back for another serving of Mercenaries or Veterans.

Lena♥Ribka says

*They are happy tears...
because of HEA...*

but I'm crying because I have already missed them, the most unforgeable characters ever, two men to die for, my Dan and Vadim...

My first spontaneous desire after I've turned the last page was to go back to Soldiers and start the whole epic from the very beginning.

I have never had this urgent uncontrolled desire before and I read a lot. I am still not ready to say *goodbye* to Dan and Vadim. Will I see you again?...

Thank you for the 25 years of the heartbreakin, emotional journey...I will always love you...

Martin says

[In Special Forces: Soldiers Part I -Director's Cut and Special Forces: Soldiers Part II -Director's Cut, we get to meet both men who start off as enemies in the Afghanistan war in the 1980s:
