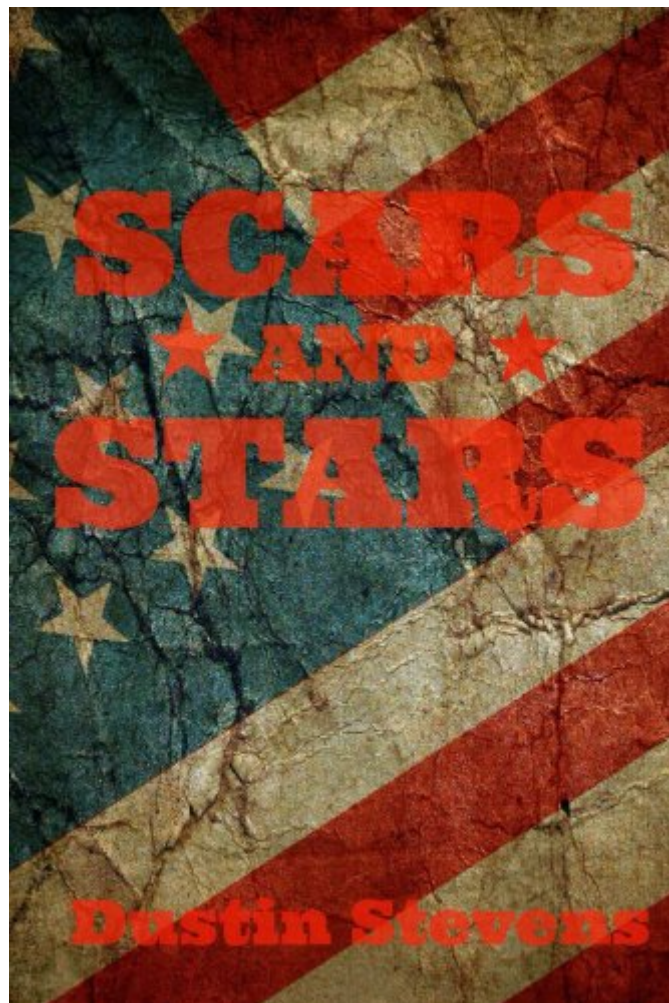


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Scars And Stars



Synopsis

A boy of just six years old, Austin Roberts found himself perpetually in the way at the post-funeral gathering of his great uncle Jack. Frustrated and alone, he wandered out onto the front porch to find his great uncle Cat, Jack's brother, sitting alone, an old album on his lap. Oblivious to the world around them, the two begin an unlikely conversation and together embark on journey that stretches almost seven decades in length. Page by page, Cat imparts the story of the album to young Austin, using a series of seemingly mundane and unconnected objects to tell the story of the brothers Roberts from long ago. Beginning with their humble upbringing by a single mother on the river bottoms of rural Ohio to the day they left home to serve in the Korean, through their capture and escape from an unmarked prisoner of war camp and on through the lives they returned to, the album tells a story of bravery and brotherhood that knows no bounds.

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Customer Reviews

I have fortunately been blessed to be on a marathon reading period of time, of all the books I can get my hands on by this author. A few of my most favorite authors have previously been John

Grisham and the late great Tom Clancy. Stevens has catapulted his way into this category of authors, as far as I am now concerned, after reading "SCARS and STARS" This book is history. It is fear of the unknown, it is loyalty, it is courage. This book is love of country, love of and detest for your fellow mankind, and the love of family. It's God, guts and guns. It is truth. It is War. It is a most moving emotional read. As a daughter of a WWII POW in Nazi Germany and the Mother of a modern war veteran, I personally give this book 5 Stars.

The excellence of this book is amazing. It encompasses a range of point of view of generations, from a boy's fascination with an old man's story and the brothers who enlist and face combat, are captured, but never lose their indomitable spirit despite their inhumane treatment and the physical demands to stay alive. At times the tension is so real it almost becomes personal to the reader. It is a well done story of determination and heroism, The bond between two brothers is the cornerstone of this cliff-hanger. If you want a book that you will be hesitant to put down, this is it. When you read the last of the story, have some tissues handy. This is the first of Stevens' work I have read. I was most pleasantly surprised, and will read more of his books.

This is, hands down the best book I have read this year and certainly the best I have ever read from Dustin Stevens. I congratulate you, Mr. Stevens for a wonderful, touching and sometimes quite graphic view of two wonderfully dedicated brothers before, during and after the Korean War. If I could give you more stars here, I certainly would. You brought forth strong emotions with your writing. Tears and cheers for sure and everything in between. I make no apologies for being addicted to Dustin's work and am now reading "The Debt" which, as well is a darned good read.

I really liked this book. I read one of the reviews (and there may be others) that were disappointed as some things did not ring true...like landing a passenger type plane on aircraft carriers. And I admit there were some other characterizations that seemed a little off the possible bubble. However, the book style and the content was exceptional. When reading, you have to remember it IS fiction. For those who don't know anything about the Korean war, it gives a pretty good picture of what it must have been like if you were to get memories from a number of different veterans. The Korean war was the forgotten war. I was 6-9 years old during this period and by the time I got to high school, I do not remember an history class that covered the war. Even with some of the not likely "memories" I would still recommend this book. The author is one of my favorites.

I loved this book. It made me stand in awe of the patriotism of Uncle Cat and his brother, Jack, and also of every veteran who has ever seen service, but especially of those who have served in wartime. Every serviceman writes a blank check to his country, up to and including his life, but in his book, the author explains so very clearly just what every moment during a war could be like. You get to experience the fear, but also the courage that a person can have under extreme circumstances. Under extreme pressure, people often find the courage to do the right thing, even when it's the hardest thing, and in Scars and Stars, thanks to the author, we get to experience how that feels. While at first glance, you might think this is a "man's" book, look a little further and read this book. It is not so much a book about a war, but rather, about the love of two brothers for each other, for their Mother, and for their country. The author employs the use of an album and a younger relative to tell the story of these Army servicemen brothers so effectively, so heart-wrenchingly, so beautifully, that any woman will also enjoy the book and be filled with thanks and pride for any veteran they know, whether male or female.

Each time I read another book by Dustin Stevens I immediately look for another. I literally did not want to put this one down. The Roberts brothers make me wish I had known them. I was in high school during the Korean war. This book was different in style and I loved it as I have all of Dustin Stevens books. Thank you.

This was a departure from my favorite author's theme and it took me a chapter to realize I was on a different path - but one in which I was quickly immersed. An elderly man reminisces on his harrowing experiences in the Korean War, fighting alongside his older brother. He relates the stories of their survival to his young nephew, from whom we hear spellbound reaction, and shares with him, for the first time, souvenirs of their escapes from torture, prisoner of war camp and death, all saved in a precious album. The Uncle and his brother are country boys, expert shots and very familiar with their environment. They volunteer patriotically for a war for which they are ill prepared but quickly establish themselves with fellow soldiers and officers as reliable, courageous and competent. Both characters are expertly crafted so that I still carry pictures in my mind of both men and the combat passages are still vivid. A really good read.

Let me say I had no preconceived notion when I chose to read this book. I read a lot and often. Strangely, I too am from Ohio and am a veteran so I could relate even more to this story and the way it was written. I too, reflect daily on my life and the events that have made me what I am. I find

few writers that have the depth of feeling to write a page turner such as this book. I have read many of Dustin Stevens' novels but he hit this one out of the park. I thank him.

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