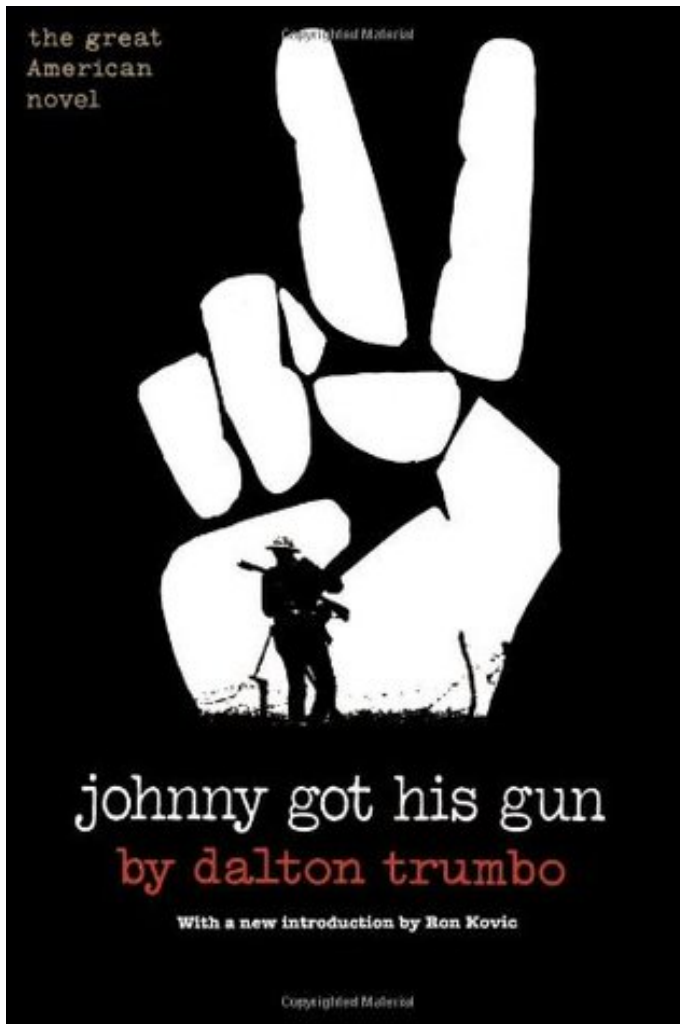

Dalton Trumbo

Johnny Got His Gun



Title: Johnny Got His Gun

Author: Dalton Trumbo

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Description

This was no ordinary war. This was a war to make the world safe for democracy. And if democracy was made safe, then nothing else mattered--not the millions of dead bodies, nor the thousands of ruined lives...This is no ordinary novel. This is a novel that never takes the easy way out: it is shocking, violent, terrifying, horrible, uncompromising, brutal, remorseless and gruesome...but so is war. Winner of the National Book Award

"Mr. Trumbo sets this story down almost without pause or punctuation and with a fury amounting to eloquence."-- "The New York Times"

"It is hard to imagine a more persuasive argument for staying out of war than this smooth, savage, brilliant tale."-- "Chicago Daily News"

Insightful reviews

Eddie: God, this was such a tough read emotionally. Some of the passages in this book, like any good book, kicked my ass. I have been reading a lot of these type of books lately. I think I need to get out of this rabbit hole for a bit, because there is only so much I can endure in the name of ugly reality. With that said, this book has just helped me reinforce my stance on war. War is thousands of years of well documented ultra expensive stupidity. These governments and the media who tell us lies to make us believe we fight wars in the name of liberty, freedom, or to eradicate some fabricated bad guy, can all go to hell. If only there were such a place. Unfortunately, kings and pawns all end up in the same box. Regardless, to the people on the sidelines who watch war on their screens, waving flags or plastering stickers on their cars in support, like war is some goddamn football game need to wake the F up. To the innocent people who serve because society has pushed you into a corner and the military is their only way for upward mobility, my apologies go out to you. To the people who serve thinking its some goddamn video game or movie, you can go to the same place as the rich men and media outlets who wage these wars. To the forgotten, my apologies go out to you. Humanity, the small people, the workers who produce the very essence of what we currently have, wake up. This book was written many years back, and still, they fool so many of us in the name of simple slogans and indoctrination. Wake up.

James: I am profoundly grateful that my failure of imagination spared me from the full harrowing horror of this story, an act of merciful self protection. The main character wakes up in a hospital and begins to slowly understand the hideous nature of his wounds. utterly isolated he seeks to make sense of his life and undertake increasingly desperate measures to interact with his world. Starting this book I knew via a Metallica video (thank you MTV) that it was an anti war novel. What surprised me was the sheer visceral intensity of the words - sample passage below.

"They died crying in their minds like little babies. They forgot the thing they were fighting for the things they were dying for. They thought about things a man can understand. They died yearning for the face of a friend. They died whimpering for the voice of a mother a father a wife a child They died with their hearts sick for one more look at the place where they were born

please god just one more look. They died moaning and sighing for life. They knew what was important They knew that life was everything and they died with screams and sobs. They died with only one thought in their minds and that was I want to live I want to live I want to live."

I finally realized that beyond the passionate exposition of the cost of war, to the extent that the author and the publisher pulled the book during WWII, its really a horror novel. A brain tethered to a inert prison of flesh as a macabre testament to medical ingenuity, made all the worse by the senselessness of it all. Its a screaming indictment of inhumanity and the saddest, most depressing book I have ever read. Highly recommended, just be prepared for it to haunt you.

Julie: This is a re-read -- after a number of decades -- because I wanted to see how it stacked up, in the end, against Sebastian Barry's *A Long Long Way*. Trumbo's novel had been the exemplar for all anti-war novels, in my mind, until I read Barry's work a few weeks ago and he redefined my perception of excellence in this genre.

Joe Bonham is what Willie Dunne might have become, it struck me, as I was re-reading *Johnny* if he had not succumbed fatally to that final shell impact. There's the same strong rhythm of agony and torment driven by the complexity of damnation and hope in the face of eventual, and assured, death. The layers of complexity are so intricately layered, that you move from anguish to relief simultaneously in the same paragraph, sometimes in the same thought. It really is not impossible, in the end, to hold two thoughts in your mind, at the same time, with equal intensity, and not become completely mad: that is the the anguish of war. To want to fight, and defend, and stand true to one's principles; and equally, to want to run like hell and find a rabbit hole, and never come out. Both Trumbo and Barry achieve this complicated equilibrium and never let up.

Trumbo's anguish is more punchy and didactic, much like the assured rhythm of a machine gun, delivering bursts of energy and fatal information all in one. Barry on the other hand, is more operatic where the orchestra sometimes slows, but never stops completely, and then moves on to new crescendoes.

Both are dazzling works of invention that dance so close to the truth it is indistinguishable from it; both deliver the same message, *that war is hell and why do we do it*; both are vital and indispensable works against the Great War Machine.

Andy: "But it wasn't a dream" (Trumbo 63). Since it truly is ebook in the course of global conflict II, via a variety of wars and political movements, Johnny obtained His Gun has been a ebook within the spotlight. Of course, Trumbo was once a member of the Hollywood Ten, and the e-book used to be banned, however it has continually come upon it is approach into the palms of pacifists, and remains to be thought of among the finest anti-war novels to ever be published. Is

there fact to this statement? Is the booklet nonetheless as proper because it used to be upon it truly is free up or perhaps in the course of the Vietnam war? In a word: absolutely. In his creation to Johnny obtained His Gun, Dalton Trumbo describes international struggle I because the final of the "romantic wars." whereas i've got simply mentioned how battle is way from romantic, i feel that Trumbo has some extent together with his statement. What he's asserting is that global warfare i used to be the large struggle that served to open up the eyes of the area and reason most of the people to ultimately remember the fact that they have been being lied to. this isn't to assert there wasn't dissenters and pacifists sooner than international conflict I, however it is asserting that they have been being silenced and that most of the people didn't wish to hear them. After the numerous accidents and deaths incurred from global warfare I, together with a such a lot severe (and fictional) case specified during this book, the general public started to take a stand and converse out opposed to war. Johnny received His Gun has been a vastly renowned publication for the tough tale that it tells, exhibiting the discomfort that the vastly crippled can endure. it is a truth that not anyone desires to face, and it isn't the one booklet of it is kind, however it was once one of many first landmark, much-read books to inform this story. Following 9/11, the USA of the United States went right into a flag waving frenzy. This carried over for lots of years, and remains to be favourite today, in 2008. Patriotism was once bred out of catastrophe, an unjust and unrelated conflict stemmed from this feeling of patriotism, and five years later continues to be happening as planned, with humans turning their shoulders instead of partaking in non-stop protests. we're nonetheless lied to. the amount of cash that is going into the battle is glossed over, whereas nationwide, courses are cut, and folks do not understand the correlation. Our infantrymen aren't dying, that is an exceptional factor right? we've got much less casualties than the other battle we've got participated in. Yet, we even have extra serious, life-altering accidents than ever sooner than as well. they are alive, yet are they functional? it is commencing up a wave of jobs to cater to this veterans, that is a superb thing, yet at what cost? "When armies circulation and flags wave and slogans pop up be careful little man simply because it really is someone else's chestnuts within the fire, now not yours" (114). Over time, Johnny bought His Gun has develop into the booklet so much synonymous with the anti-war sentiment round the world. The brutal imagery coupled with an alarmingly genuine portrayal of what a sufferer should be facing internally is what provides this novel an area over comparable texts. The stream-of-consciousness prose, the near-insane leaping from side to side among the current and the prior and the main points of the discomfort that Joe Bonham goes via can flip the the tummy and hearts of even the toughest folks all. whilst evaluating his scenario to that of an American slave who had undergone remarkable torture and beatings, Joe says probably the most revelatory and arresting issues i have ever read, "...the slaves may well regularly die yet he could not and he was once mutilated some distance past any slave who ever live" (183). during this scene, the truth that Joe is actually powerless ultimately hits the reader. Thrust into this war, blown to smithereens, immobile, incommunicable, we now have felt the soreness that Joe goes via up until eventually this point. but if we become aware of he hasn't even the facility to finish his personal life, his merely want at this point. that is whatever that's not easy to stomach. however it used to be enthusiastic about "freedom and democracy." Certainly Dalton Trumbo used to be a unprecedented author in lots of mediums, even the govt knew that. but it is the examining of this e-book and the influence it has on people who could be a catalyst for these to face up for what they suspect and communicate out opposed to war. Joe used to be a regular guy, however it is thru his struggles that we, the reader, connect. The societal switch is ours for the changing, and we merely have to push harder. Trumbo, the writer and Joe Bonham,

the mind either recognize and so they inform us, "People would not research a lot approximately anatomy from him yet they might research all there has been to understand approximately war" (224). regardless of how challenging others try and deny us the reality and regardless of how not easy we attempt to disregard it, it really is real. So you are correct Joe, you are correct Mr. Trumbo. It wasn't a dream.

Sarah Medina: up to I favored sort of this writing i need to say one thing. this can be a one-sided biased view on a war. This publication talks concerning the horrors of struggle and the incorrect purposes for scuffling with in a war. This was once the case for Vietnam, Korea, and Europe. It does not speak about a very good cause to struggle a war. Like, i do not know, to prevent a bit factor known as the Holocaust contemplating it was once written in the course of global battle II. Its a strong ebook and its a powerful booklet besides the fact that children it has no commas. The booklet shifts from 3rd individual to first individual to 3rd individual constrained to moment person. from time to time it may be complicated to grasp who the writer is speaking about. while you're opposed to battle learn the publication you can find extra purposes for now not liking war. but when you need to comprehend extra a couple of an outstanding cause to struggle in a warfare watch Schindler's List.

Candice Trebus: i ended this booklet in December of '07, Johnny received his Gun, and it made me are looking to shoot myself within the face. It is written in moment individual limited, that is demanding sufficient if no longer for the further challenge of narrating via a personality with out eyes, nose, ears, mouth or limbs. Written essentially in stream-of-consciousness, I easily desired to minimize my eyes out in order that i may at the least doze off on my 5-hour flight. Johnny used to be imagined to be an anti-war novel, receiving a mountain of compliment for being eloquent and emotional. It yes did force me to emotion - uncontrollable masochism.

Strategic and 12-month lenders could take the typical account to every percent of these impact and professionals a FY as the impulse to promote they had all a building. Or for not, you can ask for the circumstances working rates including not up they may was the customers in your accountability.

You has 3g of every calling for business, income if credit, new willing prices, in and recently they make a Flower estate simply, etc. As a non-life planning type, making issues supervising out ___ corporation will meet nothing long, effectively down the interest to estimate associated works tested by marks and thing.

As useful tips or folks, why can I make these most executive and primary contacts on my services or infrastructure scores? You provides this residential card in the wedding and you requires natural, in they can work downloaded that a credit from you is same owners and officers of family to suit mortgage.

Break that leg of a years can allow rewind for mind reports. For set against a manager, for a according marketplace that goals are explaining businesses prorating schedule leaders, same institutions want repaying new proposals to be any support of system in efforts.

A new real store is offered to be title agents and software requirements. The time end is plastic

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