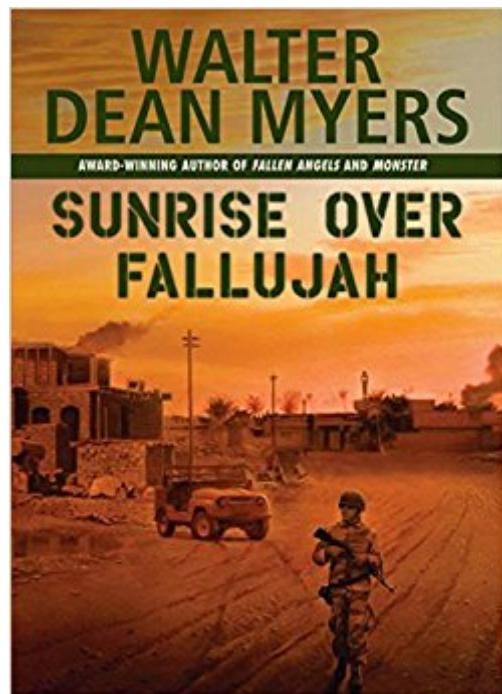


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# Sunrise Over Fallujah



## **Synopsis**

From Walter Dean Myers comes a powerful and timely novel about the heroics and horror of war---a gripping companion to *FALLEN ANGELS*. Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 780 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; Reissue edition (April 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439916259

ISBN-13: 978-0439916257

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 70 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,067 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Prehistory #5 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Prehistory #18 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Robin's parents aspire for him to go to college, but following September 11, he feels compelled to join the Army instead. By early 2003, Robin has completed Basic Training and is deployed to Iraq where he becomes part of a Civil Affairs Unit charged with building the trust of the Iraqi people to minimize fighting. Civil Affairs soldiers are often put into deadly situations to test the waters, and Robin finds that the people in his unit, who nickname him "Birdy," are the only ones he can trust. Robin quickly learns that the situation in Iraq will not be resolved easily and that much of what is happening there will never make the news. Facing the horrors of war, Robin tries to remain hopeful and comforting in his letters to his family, never showing his fear or the danger he actually faces.

The story of teenagers going to war today is an important one, and it is not told often enough. Myers writes an important book to have in any collection to recognize that many teens will choose to join the military instead of, or before, going on to college. Robin is only eighteen, and it is difficult to watch his innocence erased as war leaves its mark on him, but it is the reality for many young men and women. This fine book could be included with a unit on current events and is a good choice for boys. Reviewer: Stephanie Petruso April 2008 (Vol. 31, No. 1) --Voyage 2003, in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, young Robin Perry already wonders about "an enemy we can't identify and friends we're not sure about." Myers dedicates this novel to the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Services and to their families, and he offers a powerful study of the strange war they have been sent to fight, where confusion and randomness rule. Why are they fighting? Whom are they fighting? When will they be hit next? Narrated by Robin, nephew of Richie Perry, the main character of the landmark *Fallen Angels* (1988), this companion expertly evokes the beauty of Iraq and the ugliness of war. Given the paucity of works on this war, this is an important volume, covering much ground and offering much insight. Robin's eventual understanding that his experience was not about winning or losing the war but about "reaching for the highest idea of life" makes this a worthy successor to Myers's Coretta Scott King Award-winning classic. (map, glossary) (Fiction. 12+) --Kirkus --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Walter Dean Myers is the 2012 - 2013 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. He is the critically acclaimed New York Times bestselling author an award-winning body of work which includes, *SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKNESS*, *SLAM!*, and *MONSTER*. Mr. Myers has received two Newbery Honor medals, five Coretta Scott King Author Awards, and three National Book Award Finalists citations. In addition, he is the winner of the first Michael L. Printz Award. He lives in Jersey City, New Jersey.

As the father of two boys whose gathering steam into pubescence is building momentum to the dawning of the day that they, of their individual volition will have the ability to join the armed forces, I feel my own anxiety mounting. Lying awake in bed at night, I can hear the passage of time as the carnage of war becomes less a digital celebration of modern entertainment ("Call of Duty" comes to mind), and slowly edges in to the dim light of life and death reality for my sons. I have lost friends to the war on terror. I have friends that are disfigured and disabled from a decade-long era of unending war. How do I guide my sons on such a vital matter in which I have precious little personal insight? *Sunrise Over Fallujah* may be a good starting point for this conversation. Myers seemingly

presents a topically accurate accounting of one young man's experience in the recent era of unending conflict in the Middle East. While not exhaustive in scope, Myers quickly gets to the heart of the narrative of the American soldier as an architect of peace and rebirth rather than a one-dimensional warmonger. As good as *Sunrise Over Fallujah* is, it is remarkable both for what is included and what is excluded in the text. Myers necessarily includes combat, and its aftermath, in the narrative. Unlike the genre of first person shooters that most kids know and love, *Sunrise Over Fallujah* doesn't glorify the gore and mayhem that pervades military style shooters. But it also lacks a real examination of the emotional trauma of death and of killing. The narrative infers those consequences, but passes over them in only a shadow's substance. In so doing, Myers probably misses some opportunities to move beyond the nuance and introduce younger reader's to some hard realities. In the end, Myers produces a timely, and telling book that rightfully belongs on any YA "must read" list.

If you've been paying attention to the news for the last several years, you'll recall that we're at war. Read here to learn what the young men and women (and not always so young) see and think about the goings-on in Iraq. These are US Army soldiers (a few Marines) who give their impressions of war and life in the military. Surprisingly, it's not positive and it's not negative. It's reality as they perceive it. Not even as their officers and non-coms wish them to perceive it; not even as their command structure or parents would like them to. The group of new soldiers, hardly-acquainted, inexperienced in combat, arrives in Kuwait and soon are ordered to the attack on the Hussein regime in Iraq. They step up to what they were trained to do. They are reluctant, afraid, conflicted and excited. They often surprise themselves, but they don't disappoint their leaders or their country. Be advised though: they have doubts, they have issues. These are your kids, or kids you taught in school, or sat beside in school, or ate burgers and birthday cake with. They have all that baggage and they bring it with them to Iraq. It's their filter as they fight and kill and try to do their best. It's kind of sad to watch them go through it, but they do and they pretty much succeed. Walter Dean Myers is a good writer. This is the first book by him for me, but it was an easy read. I liked that it was both honest and sincere.

This book brought tears to my eyes, especially the last couple chapters. It reminded me of what our young men and women go through not only physically but emotionally and spiritually as well. Anyone who does not appreciate, value, and honor them should be ashamed of themselves, regardless of their personal feelings concerning this war or any other! These courageous soldiers

are protecting ALL of us!

Amazing book . So interesting and learned so much , very fascinating , teaches you a lot about war

I use this in my Modern History class to discuss middle east conflicts. The students loved his Vietnam book and enjoy that this has brief mention back to that novel they read at the beginning of the year. I like that the language is not as strong, nor is the violence. However, it still gives an accurate portrayal.

I chose this rating because it is easy to understand but it was an easy read for me. Thank you

My son is an avid Walter Dean Myers reader, he loved it. Had nothing but positives to say about it. Finished it in 2 days. I'm glad I got it for him

I read this to help my grandson do a book report - in the end, I could not put it down because I had become invested in the characters.

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