



Roberts Ridge: A Story of Courage and Sacrifice on Takur Ghar Mountain, Afghanistan

Malcolm MacPherson

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In this gripping account based on stunning eyewitness testimony and painstaking research, journalist Malcolm MacPherson thrusts us into a Navy SEAL drama of rescue, tragedy, and valor from the war in Afghanistan.

Roberts Ridge: A Story of Courage and Sacrifice on Takur Ghar Mountain, Afghanistan Details

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From Reader Review Roberts Ridge: A Story of Courage and Sacrifice on Takur Ghar Mountain, Afghanistan for online ebook

Kelly Crigger says

Roberts Ridge is a great story that's just not told very well. The events of Takur Gar could easily have been the next "Blackhawk Down" but mediocre writing and lackluster prose actually separated me from the characters when I found myself wanting to bond more with them. It seems this book was rushed into production in the hopes of the public latching onto it as the first great story from the war on terrorism, but it falls well short of that pinnacle. Overall it's a story worth telling, but it would have been better told by someone else.

C says

The most poignant line in the story comes in the conclusion when a battle weary warrior eyes a group of guys trying to look "tough"; his buddy tells him, "they want to be like you," to which he bewilderingly responds, "why would anyone want to be me?"

His answer reflects the harrowing 24 hours he spent high on a mountain in Afghanistan only a few months before. A small team of Navy SEALs and quick reaction force of Army Rangers fought for their lives outnumbered and under constant direct fire in a fight that was never supposed to happen after a series of the most unfortunate events. 7 men lost their lives in a battle the average American has probably never heard of.

Mr. MacPherson's writing is fast, concise and well researched. He has the benefit of the personal perspective of most of the men involved, including not only the guys on the ground, but also the pilots in the air providing close air support. He brings the eagle eye view in with the chaos on the ground for a full perspective of a modern war. My only complaint, however, is that sometimes the story is as chaotic as I'm sure real life events were. But as a reader, I had a tough time sorting through the individual stories to figure out what was actually going on. That may just be the nature of the beast when writing a true story; the executive summaries and official reports at the end help pull it together.

I have the fortunate position that I work with one of the main character, which spurred my interest in this story. It's stories like this that cannot and should not be forgotten in the confusion of what is not a 10 year old war. More Americans need to know these names and understand that war is not glorious or "cool" but chaotic, bloody, exhausting, and deadly, yet modern warriors still volunteer to take the fight to the enemy.

Stephanie says

This is one of the best books I've ever read...my MMCS at ODS knew this guy and my wonderful husband gave me this book for our anniversary

Michael Flanagan says

A good read on a mission gone wrong and the courage of the men stuck on top of a mountain top battling the enemy and the weather. For me this book could have been so much better if it was not so busy, the author nearly pulls off bringing all the numerous story lines together but just falls short. Still a book worth reading.

John F. says

Honor! Courage! Brotherhood!

I loved this book. Another Veteran recommended this book to me. The author puts you in the helicopters, teams, battlefield. He gets you to feel the pain of those injured and the sorrow for the others who mourn. This is an OUTSTANDING book. I highly recommended it to every American!

Sarah says

So, as I often do, I took a hard left and ended up many genres away from the magical, fictional, light-hearted world of my last read, *The Golem & The Jinni*. In what can only be described as polar opposite, Roberts Ridge is the story of a military fiasco in Afghanistan predicated on the sacrosanct military philosophy of “no man left behind.”

Ultimately, this book is what it would seem at first glance; battle, blood and guts, brotherhood, chaos, death, and survival. The graphic detail isn't for everyone (and it does get quite graphic), so I'd recommend steering clear if violence makes you woozy. That said, if you can muster up the strength to read and absorb the story, you'll find that Roberts Ridge is actually both an enthralling tale of war and a near-academic case study of military malfunction.

MacPherson is an incredibly talented writer, and he somehow managed to establish order and cohesiveness from what we can only presume was a 17-hour long clusterfuck nightmare on a remote mountain peak in Afghanistan. Lost men, multiple military branches, downed Chinooks, poor communication, fire from all direction... MacPherson's task of structuring this story was gargantuan, and he pulled it off brilliantly in a way that both honored the men involved, and highlighted some areas of weakness within our military structure as a whole.

Overall an excellent and emotional read.

Pete says

Well written memoir of one desperate skirmish in the long Afghan conflict. Accounts of multiple acts of astonishing heroism. I'd recommend for anyone who already understands or would wish to better understand the concept of "band of brothers"!

Chrissy says

This book tells you the story of one small part, a "distraction" to the main battle effort as the book itself states, of Operation Anaconda. The book is a fast-paced read that incorporates a little personal history of each military member involved woven throughout the text and battle-telling to give you a glimpse into who these men were/are which I really enjoyed. I also felt this book did a good job in capturing the emotion of the men, in particular during the medevac situations. Despite all of its positives, I would adamantly recommend anyone interested in reading this book or interested in Operation Anaconda read the book *Not A Good Day To Die* first. That book covers the entire scope of Operation Anaconda and lends much needed context to this book in my opinion.

Becca-Rawr says

Shocking

It's not hard to see the cover of this text, read the inside flap, and have a general idea of what you're going to be reading. Yes, you still can not prepare yourself for this novel. It's an emotional ride that has as many downs as ups, and in the end you feel a deep sense of pride and pain.

MacPherson does a wonderful job with his pacing of this novel, and it really helps to drag the reader in further during times of chaos and turmoil, then slows down the scene to deliver emotional blows. The facts of this book are carefully laced within the sequence so that it reads like a novel and seamlessly. The speed and the fluidity of this piece is what really helps the reader to be drawn in for one hell of a ride through to the very last pages.

It's hard to speak of this book without giving away too many spoilers, but needless to say you get to witness some of America's finest and bravest at their jobs, a job that I believe very few of us can imagine doing ourselves. But this also takes a look at an event that we as American's can only be horrified by.

The way the American Military relies on technology is a bit frightful. For years we have been amazed to head of the advancements in military technology, and we spread the news to everyone, boasting wildly. But after reading this book I sort of feel as if man has gone too far, and that technology is nothing more than a pitfall. How much could have and still can be gained if people would set aside their gadgets to just act as people should.

Human action in this book is the most influential element, however. You see men acting and reacting on a scale not commonly seen in literature or in movies. There is just something about *this* book. It's one of those situations where I can't tell you why it's a favorite of mine, I can only tell you to READ IT.

Everyone should read this book, I really don't see how any specific collection of readers would be more interested in this book than another. It's something to be read and acknowledged by all readers and all people. If you are anything like me, when you finish reading this book you'll cry, mull it over for a short while, and then be damn glad you read it in the first place.

Neil says

I enjoyed reading this book. I have been interested in reading it for a while, now, but it was not near the top of my reading list. I ended up reading it for an online course for two reasons, but the course gave me an excuse [reason] to read it sooner than I might otherwise have. It moves at a really fast pace. It took me five to six hours to read it. It held my attention once I got started. I thought the author did a pretty good job in telling the story of the events on what would become known as Roberts Ridge.

The author does a decent job of telling backstory and anecdotes to help the reader come to know the various men in the units who were a part of this side of Operation Anaconda. Some of the stories [anecdotes] were pretty crazy, that is for sure!

It was a "spur-of-the-moment" mission that became a rescue mission, and it was crazy and sad by the end. It focuses on the seventeen hours from when Navy Seal Neil Roberts falls out of the back of the helicopter he had been riding in to the ground below until the men sent in to rescue him were finally picked up off the top of the mountain and returned to their respective bases. Three helicopters were badly damaged [two were shot down], and it could have turned out far worse than it did [in terms of casualties].

(view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

It does bounce around a bit, so it does get a little hard to follow because of how the narrative is broken up. The author does not warn you that he is jumping around with his anecdotes in terms of the overall narrative; in one chapter he is describing an intense firefight or moment and the very next chapter is telling the life story of one of the soldiers who was on the mission. That would probably be the book's "biggest weakness," I would say.

As the cover says, it is a story about courage and sacrifice on Takur Ghar Mountain in Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda. I am glad I finally got around to reading it.

Jill says

Amazing. If you enjoyed reading Lone Survivor and Black Hawk Down this book is for you. It was well written. This is a non fiction, but it reads like a fiction. It's amazing tale that gets overlooked by bigger events. I'm glad that stumbled upon this book.

Trish says

I have recommended this book countless times, and each reader is similarly impressed. This book, about the

Afghanistan Special Forces mission on Robert's Ridge that goes wrong, was written before Marcus Luttrell (Lone Survivor) could even talk about his ordeal. It is the overarching story of Luttrell's mission, and goes into detail how the mission ultimately came to disaster. While Luttrell necessarily focuses on his own experience, this book, written by a reporter, covers all the men and what they must have encountered. It is extremely sobering and painful to read, but if you want to know what it is really like out there, I guarantee this will put the fear of allah into you.

Chris says

Detailed account

The level of detail outlined in this book does credit to the research and focus on providing a true account of the events of Robert's Ridge. This was a unique battlefield to history and the actions undertaken to secure in do credit to the United States JSOC

Max says

Just a few short thoughts from me on this book: Overall, I enjoyed reading it, but I have read better reports on Iraq / Afghanistan from other authors.

The first half of the book unnerved me quite a bit with its descriptions of the private life of the soldiers. Don't get me wrong: I like hearing about their private life, and to see that they are normal human beings like everyone else. But the way it was done in this book was really getting on my nerves. Every time a new Person enters the story, their life is laid out in front of the reader. Which is still fine with me, but if you are getting approximately one sentence on the story on top of the mountain and then two pages about the Commander of the QRF, followed by one sentence of the story, followed by two pages about his troops, you are getting the impression that the author tried to push up the page count.

After the first half, we know about every soldier and the real report begins. I enjoyed that part of the book a lot more, as it was a good report, but even here, I have read better. If I would be asked if I would recommend the book, i'd say it's decent, but I would not spend too much money on it.

Landon Herring says

I really liked this book. it was really sad though.
