



## **There Will Be Killing: A Novel of War and Murder**

*John L. Hart , Olivia Rupprecht*

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## **There Will Be Killing: A Novel of War and Murder** John L. Hart , Olivia Rupprecht

This wasn't supposed to be Israel Moskowitz's war. What country in its right mind would draft a child psychiatrist fresh out of his residency from Columbia University Med School and send him to Vietnam in 1969? But Izzy was here for the duration: three-sixty-four and a wake-up. A year that would change everything.

Assigned to the 99KO, the psychiatric unit of the 8th Field Hospital in sultry Nha Trang, Izzy attempts to use his skills in ways he never could have imagined; not to heal, but to get boys back onto the field of battle. A circle of compatriots soon grows around him – Gregg, the surfer dude turned psychologist; Rick, the tough-as-nails Special Ops commando; J.D., a man of many guises and even more secrets; Margie, the gorgeous, relentless head psychiatric nurse; Kate, the stunning thrill-seeker with a taste for the illicit; Nikki, the endearing, incongruously sweet Red Cross dolly. As their relationships weave and intertwine, the face of Vietnam evolves for Izzy.

But nothing will turn his world upside down – and redefine the nature of war to him – like the mission on which he finds himself an unwilling participant. Someone is massacring soldiers in unthinkable ways with the goal of demoralizing via terror, and Izzy needs to be part of the team tracking down the killer. Before he'd come to Vietnam, Izzy had never heard the term "ghost soldier." Now one might dictate what remains of his life.

Written with the verisimilitude only possible from someone who has been there, **THERE WILL BE KILLING** is an unforgettable work of fiction brimming with horror and humanity.

## **There Will Be Killing: A Novel of War and Murder Details**

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## **From Reader Review *There Will Be Killing: A Novel of War and Murder* for online ebook**

### **Wendy says**

*There Will Be Killing: A Novel Of War And Murder* by John L. Hart and Olivia Rupprecht is a compelling thriller that had me captivated throughout the entire novel.

Set in 1969 it is a riveting story of two young psychiatric doctors drafted by the US Army to go to Vietnam to assist the Army with tracking down the "Ghost Soldier" or "Boogeyman" responsible for the murders of numerous American soldiers.

The deaths are many and the murders are intensely graphic. However, if you can handle the horrors of war then this story is exceptional.

Very well-researched, characters I became attached to, constant action, and the frightening yet beautiful jungle are just some of the things that drew me in and wouldn't let me go.

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### **Martin Maenza says**

The book has co-authors - John Hart and Olivia Rupprecht - and after reading it I can see the distinct parts that each brought to the table. One side of *There Will Be Killing* is a very dark and deadly game of cat and mouse. The other side is the relationships, specifically between some of the doctors and the nurses stationed together during the Vietnam war. At times, the two parts work well together. At others, it seems like there are two separate stories mashed together. I think that is why I struggled a bit with this one and thus can only give it just an "okay" rating.

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### **Walt Bristow says**

The horrors of Vietnam just got worse. Meet Israel (Izzy) Moskowitz, a child psychiatrist fresh out of his residency from Columbia Medical School, and his colleagues of the 99KO, the psychiatric unit of the 8th Field Hospital in Nha Trang, drawn unwillingly into solving a mystery – a ghost soldier is killing American soldiers. Troops are found decapitated, heads in their laps, hands dismembered.

Into this new and brutal world, Izzy is joined by Rick, the tough as nails Special Ops commando; Margie, the gorgeous and relentless head psychiatric nurse; Kate, the stunning thrill-seeker with a taste for the illicit; and Nikki, the endearing, incongruously sweet Red Cross volunteer.

And then there is J.D., a man of many secrets and many guises, charged with finding the ghost soldier. Is it one man? Or many? Are they Russian? Chinese? Or Americans gone rogue? What is their goal? Is it to demoralize troops? If so, they're doing a very good job. Or does the ghost soldier seek something more sinister?

Izzy and Gregg, the surfer dude turned psychiatrist, become unwilling participants in J.D.'s hunt. As he is drawn into the belly of the beast called war, Izzy discovers that to get out of the hell-hole his draft board sent him to (who in their right mind would send a child psychiatrist to the middle of a war?), he must be smarter than he'd ever been in medical school.

While offering a full dose of the horror of war, the authors mix in enough of the beauty of the jungle to cause the reader to feel disoriented.

In one scene, Izzy walks up to an elephant in the jungle.

The elephant kneeled down and looked at him. Not in his experience had a creature looked at him like this, making contact like a sentient being. The elephant was measuring him up. He could feel it.

“I only know English,” he said and could have sworn the animal nodded in response. “I know you understand me. I would like to be able to ride you. May I?”

The creature reached out with its trunk. It touched his face, as gently as a mother touching a child. She scented his breath and shared her breath with him. He felt so much emotional contact and connection that he almost dropped to his knees but she caught him with her trunk and lifted him, swung him through the air and he felt as if he was flying, flying onto her back and there he was, sitting on her back and she was getting up.

Izzy looked over to see Gregg and their eyes met. And in that shared gaze they knew this experience would forever be one of those that divide your life into everything that came before and then this.

How does such beauty coexist with war? Izzy ultimately learns the lesson of war. Civilization and civility is a very lovely and precious, but very thin, veneer over a twisting, brutal savagery within us all.

Spooky. Scary. Beautifully written. **There Will Be Killing** draws you in and won't let you go. Yes, it's a story of the Vietnam War, but it's also as much a murder mystery as you'll find – with a psychological profile of the really scary people who walk among us every day. When will **you** encounter a ghost soldier in your life?

Based on a copy provided by the publisher.

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### **Kristin says**

I struggled a bit to get into this story, but really enjoyed the second half of the book once I understood the characters better. A good read for those who enjoy a thriller with a dash of historical context.

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### **Diane S ? says**

Vietnam, 1969 and the war is going full bore. An unlikelier place, Izzy a newly minted psychiatrist, never thought he would find himself. Attached to the psychiatric unit in Naha Tran, he must deal with the horrific humidity, constant insects, some very battle fatigued and sometimes violent men. All set against a backdrop of *Crystal Blue Persuasion* and *In Da Godda Da Vida*. He will soon find himself involved in something much bigger, as someone is killing soldiers in very barbaric ways, and the powers that be want to know who it is and want it stopped.

At first I had a difficult time getting into this book, so unlike Hart's other books, and I think it was my differing expectations that made this so hard. Soon though I was immersed in the story, some wonderful

characters, and the constant action. Of course the fact that this man can write his way out of a paper bag had much to do with this as well. A very untypical mystery that works so well against the backdrop of this war. There are romances, Red Cross workers, nurses and the mission which tries to provide care for children with no place to go, wounded and with no family members. The jungle, the heat, and even the beauty of the scenery in this country made me become one with this story. Yes, of course there is violence, but as one character in the novel says, What better place for a psychopath to operate in than in a war? But, whom is the psychopath?

By stories end I was sorry to leave a few of my favorite characters and hope they are again used Ina future outing.

ARC from publisher and Netgalley.

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### **Lynda says**

One needs a strong stomach, but an incredible tale, much of which is probably true. Hard to put down.

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### **Patricia (Pat) says**

Dr. Israel Moskowitz, a recent Columbia graduate in child psychiatry, was drafted and sent to Nha Trang, the Republic of Vietnam. So much for his father's "contacts in high places and favors to be cashed in". Assigned to the 8th Field Hospital in the psychiatric unit 99KO, his job was to get the soldiers back to the field of battle ASAP. Located in the war ravaged armpit of Southeast Asia, temperatures over 115 degrees and humidity 99 per cent had him throwing up and questioning how he would endure the 365 days ahead.

The group of doctors befriending Izzy was Californian Surfer Dude, Capt. Gregg Kelly, Chief Psychiatrist Robert David Thibeaux, refined, southern aristocratic, Col. Kohn, Chief and CO, and the lovable mutt that was the units mascot, KO.

Rick Galt, built like a jungle cat, loaded with speed and power, a Special Ops Commando working with special training of soldiers there. J.D. Mikel, a CIA "spook" working for the government to try and find the persons responsible for brutally killing soldiers there. Ghost Soldiers or Boogeymen were the nicknames given to these murderers who killed and decapitated soldiers on duty. Soon they are involved in the dangerous hunt to keep one step ahead of the killers who are trailing them.

This is a page turner filled with chilling, on the edge of your seat excitement. Well written, the characters are colorful and unforgettable. I liked the close relationship of Izzy and Gregg. I can see a sequel with these two and perhaps a return engagement for J.D. And the beginnings of some love interests that began there....to be continued. I will be waiting for the next edition. Great job, guys.

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### **Jennifer says**

I found this book a compelling and atmospheric read. I was a little unnerved by the co-authorship which tends not to bode especially well, whilst at the same time feeling there is an absolute right of anyone who has

personal experience of hellholes to, as Caitlin Moran would put it, 'write the shit out of it', not necessarily for publication. I was also concerned about gratuitous gruesomeness, but here it seems pretty deftly handled, considering the nature of the story, and the addition of the quotations and John Hart's own Chinese style paintings was perfect. A few elements were too neatly wrapped up at the end, but of its mystery thriller genre it is a fine example and I enjoyed it.

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## **Julie says**

There will be Killing: A Novel of War and Murder by John L. Hart and Olivia Rupprecht is a 2014 Storyplant publication.

In all honesty, I would never have picked this book out for myself under ordinary circumstances. It was not until I received a copy of the next book in the series, that I decided to check this one out.

War is my least favorite topic, and usually I associate it with novels men like to read or with dry history. The Vietnam war is especially difficult to read about, and I usually pass on anything that delves into this topic.

But, this is a murder mystery, so I decided to forge ahead to see how it went. I will confess that it was pretty rough going in the beginning, but once I reached the half way point, things really started moving along, and before all was said and done, I have to say this is one of the most chilling novels I've read in a long while.

This is not the typical set up for a thriller, at least not the type I usually invest in. The author did an amazing job of creating the atmosphere of Vietnam, and the constant feeling of being on edge, dealing with the sounds of war, but also dealing with dangerous patients and the possibility of a serial killer being in their midst.

Although there is plenty of violence, and other disturbing passages, it was not as bad as I had feared, with the psychological angle played up, stressing the effects war has on one's psyche.

When Israel, or Izzy, to his friends, is drafted and sent to the psychiatric facility of the eighth field in Nha Trang, he never expected to find himself embroiled in a CIA manhunt for a man known only as "The Ghost." He and the other members of his unit are to help keep an eye out for this man, as the hospital would be the perfect place for him to hide.

While they bide their time, the unit remains on high alert, and are involved in some personal dramas, while experiencing the horrors of war up close and personal on a few occasions, and coping with loneliness, fear, paranoia, and heartache and loss.

Each character makes their own unique impression and contributions to the story, but I was especially drawn to the deep bond that formed between Izzy and Gregg. This is a fine example of how lifelong friendships form under the duress of war, especially when they have each other's backs in extreme circumstances, and share the same thoughts and moral code.

This story was nothing like I thought it would be, and I am glad I gave it a try. I will be starting on the next book by this author soon, and am really looking forward to it!

4 stars

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## **Laura Furuta says**

What would you do and how would you cope if you were sent to a war zone in Vietnam? This is what happens to a child psychiatrist right out of training. Izzy finds himself in a hospital treating soldiers and sending them back out to war. However there is another force at work. This one is terrorizing the troops by slaughtering them in unimaginable ways. Will Izzy be able to bring this 'ghost soldier' to justice or will he lose his life in the process? This is a very intense book. It shows the horror of war and the toll it takes on the troops and how they try to survive with their sanity intact. You take a walk with Izzy through this part of his life and feel his pain at trying to understand what is happening and how to survive. This is a book that left me almost speechless. You will be turning pages into the night to find out what happens. I received a copy of this book from eBook Discovery in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Diane Moyle says**

This is an intriguing thriller set in Vietnam in 1969. It is a riveting story and even when the mystery appears to be solved, I wasn't sure if the main characters are actually safe. It kept me guessing until the last page. The authors definitely know their subject and use this knowledge to weave a believable, heart stopping story. You feel the pains and triumphs of all the characters and bite your nails when they are in danger and breathe a sigh of relief when they are finally safe.

I have only one complaint about the story! It contains some atrocities that were disturbing to me. Although they were not described in overbearingly graphic detail, I filled the details in with my imagination (which we all do when we read) and they left me with a jaw dropping, sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach. I realize these scenes are essential to the storyline and in describing the pain and suffering endured by the character, I just wish I would have been warned. Although I was glad that I finished the book because the story was so thrilling, at one point, I wasn't sure I wanted to.

So, if you are not squeamish and ready for a story that will leave you guessing until the very end, this is definitely a book you should read! Make sure you have some time to spend because you won't want to put it down until you turn the last page.

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## **John says**

I could never figure out what this book wanted to be. It was supposed to be about a couple of rookie psychiatrists who were to help figure out who was killing people in incredibly gruesome ways during the Vietnam War. Psychiatry played a very small part in the book, The first half was more Peyton Place with the various doctors, nurses and soldiers and their conflicting relationships. Once the doctors got into the combat zone it was more about them becoming soldiers that using their psychiatric skills. Not a bad book, just a mish mash that needed to focus on one thing.

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## **Corrie says**

The storyline of *There will be Killing* grabbed my attention right away and the book didn't disappoint. Izzy is a child psychiatrist fresh out of medical school when he is drafted to Vietnam. In his first week in country, he is recruited by JD a spook to help him stop a killer who is hunting and killing soldiers. The book was fiction, but it gave an idea of the trauma soldiers experienced during war and how doctors helped treat both physical and mental wounds during the war.

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## **Lorrie says**

In this story, the US Army drafts 2 young psychiatric doctors, just out of med school, to go to Vietnam and assist the Army with hunting down the person(s) responsible for the deaths of multiple American soldiers. The murderer was referred to as a 'ghost soldier' or 'boogeyman'. The reader gets to know these 2 doctors very well and comes to empathize with them. The character development is very good. I especially enjoyed the last half of the book. Great story!

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## **Janice Forman says**

"*There will be Killing*" left me emotionally drained. Although I know this is a work of fiction, I am struggling with how much is true. Author, John Hart, served in Vietnam in the same capacity as his protagonist, Israel Moskowitz and I am relatively certain he is drawing on his experiences to write this story.

It is 1969 and Israel Moskowitz is fresh out of his residency as a child psychiatrist when he is drafted and sent to 99KO, a psychiatric unit in Nha Trang, Vietnam. Unwillingly, he finds himself on a mission for which he is definitely not trained. Someone, is massacring soldiers in gruesome ways, totally demoralizing the troops with terror and Izzy finds himself in situations totally unsuited to his education and training. Who is the enemy? Who can he trust? This novel is suspenseful to the very last paragraph -- and then the reader is still left wondering!

I have always suspected there were many stories that remained untold regarding the war in Vietnam. Is "*There will be Killing*" truth or fiction?

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