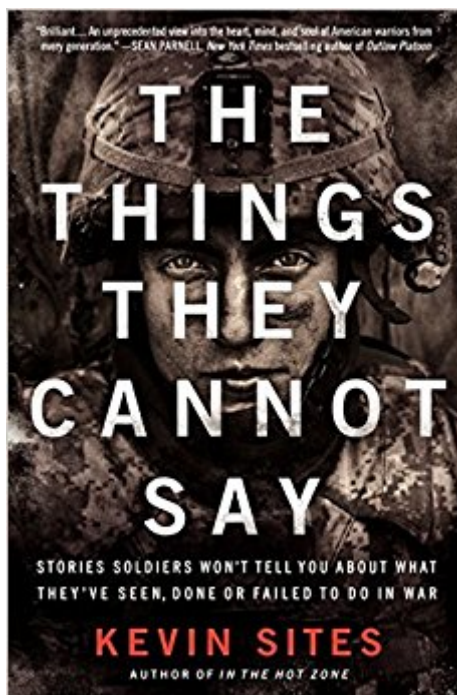




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The Things They Cannot Say: Stories Soldiers Won't Tell You About What They've Seen, Done Or Failed To Do In War



Synopsis

What is it like to kill? What is it like to be under fire? How do you know what's right? What can you never forget? In *The Things They Cannot Say*, award-winning journalist and author Kevin Sites asks these difficult questions of eleven soldiers and marines, who "by sharing the truth about their wars" display a rare courage that transcends battlefield heroics. For each of these men, many of whom Sites first met while in Afghanistan and Iraq, the truth means something different. One struggles to recover from a head injury he believes has stolen his ability to love; another attempts to make amends for the killing of an innocent man; yet another finds respect for the enemy fighter who tried to kill him. Sites also shares the unsettling narrative of his own failures during war "including his complicity in a murder" and the redemptive powers of storytelling that saved him from a self-destructive downward spiral.

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Customer Reviews

"Sites highlights the importance of treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and sharing stories. Most importantly, he forces readers, those average civilians, to look at what war does to people and think about whether it's always worth it." • (San Francisco Chronicle) "The harrowing accounts detail the experiences of 11 US soldiers and Marines who have been ravaged by modern warfare and its psychological aftermath. What makes Kevin's reporting unique and essential is that it didn't stop on the battlefield—he followed his subjects home." • (Vice) "Brilliant! An unprecedented view into the heart, mind and soul of American Warriors from

every generation. A must read for every American. • (Sean Parnell, New York Times Bestselling Author of Outlaw Platoon) A vivid set of portraits of modern combatants written in prose that moves with speed and heat. • (Edward Tick, Ph. D., codirector of Solider's heart and author of War and Soul) • Riveting and emotionally raw... These gripping stories... are evidence of a profound desire to heal. • (Publishers Weekly) • This is tough stuff, as many of the experiences recounted here are graphic, cruel, and bloody, but they offer an intimate look at the costs of war on a personal, elemental level. • (Booklist) • In sensitive, honest prose, the author emphasizes that this is a book about hope. An important book for warriors and the communities that send them to war. • (Kirkus Reviews) A gritty look at postwar distress, including veterans' personal accounts, by a journalist with his own intimate perspective on the subject. (Shelf Awareness (Bruce Jacobs of Watermark Books & Cafe, Wichita, KS)

Kevin Sites has spent more than a decade covering wars and conflicts for ABC, NBC, CNN, Yahoo! News, and Vice magazine. He is the author of In the Hot Zone: One Man, One Year, Twenty Wars and The Things They Cannot Say: Stories Soldiers Won't Tell You About What They've Seen, Done or Failed to Do in War. He is also an associate professor of journalism at the University of Hong Kong.

didn't care for it as I found it was more like his personal feelings instead of all different soldiers and battle situations like I thought it was. I tried to stay and keep reading hoping it would get better but gave up after I found myself skipping pages and large sections looking for something to hold my interest, sorry

I did not care for some of the authors opinions throughout the book. I was under the assumption that it would be mainly stories from the soldiers themselves and not an interpretation of them.

This collection of stories, as told by an embedded reporter, will stand the test of time as a first-hand look at the direct effects of the "war on Terror" upon Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen. These stories do not sell out for the John Wayne version- they depict loss, suffering, grief, anger, boredom, etc. Sometimes, people take shots at the enemy- and miss. That's ok- not every story is made for Hollywood. This collection of stories is haunting to me, as someone who has also fought in these wars. It's not overly depressing but cold hard reality is faced-including what happens years later, after the war.

I found the writers attempt at relating being a journalist in Fallujah to being a Marine in Fallujah insulting. His tone throughout is that of a whiny school child that feels he didn't get the glory he deserves.

too centered on author. He worked hard to get stories.

I have several friends at work who have served. Others that served, then went to the Reserves and served some more. Still others who kept getting called up and re-activated. I have seen sharp/witty well-adapted folks return to civilian life - and be "not quite the same" as before. My son has just taken the Marine Oath and will be a Reconnaissance Man (MOS 321). War has its tolls. Our young men and women who have been fighting these recent wars have been sent out longer, put on high-alert for extended periods, left on patrol (on a 360-degree hyper-alert swivel) with badness in all directions - then sent home. The stories in this book are real. You can hear the hurt and dismay in the author's words, even as he tries to stick to the facts and the raw observations provided to him. You can see the damage - to both the warfighters themselves, the families around them, and the relationships that could have been much different, given different circumstances. I pray for our soldiers who are in harm's way. I pray that they come back in one piece - physically, mentally, and spiritually. This book describes several heroes who did not come back "the same". Excellent read. Your heart will weep. Remember to thank those who have served - and survived. JDMc

I really enjoyed the first hand account of the current war we find ourselves engaged in. As a Vietnam Veteran I can relate. Thank you!!

This is a brutally honest book. The author and the soldiers have gone through life changing experiences that leave them with emotional and physical difficulties that may last their life long. Anyone who wants to understand what happens to people who live in a war zone should read this book. Relatives of veterans and others (volunteers) that spend time in a war zone would find this book helpful for understanding what victims go through. Each story is different but most of the outcomes are similar.

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The Things They Cannot Say: Stories Soldiers Won't Tell You About What They've Seen, Done or Failed to Do in War What Men Won't Tell You: Women's Guide to Understanding

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