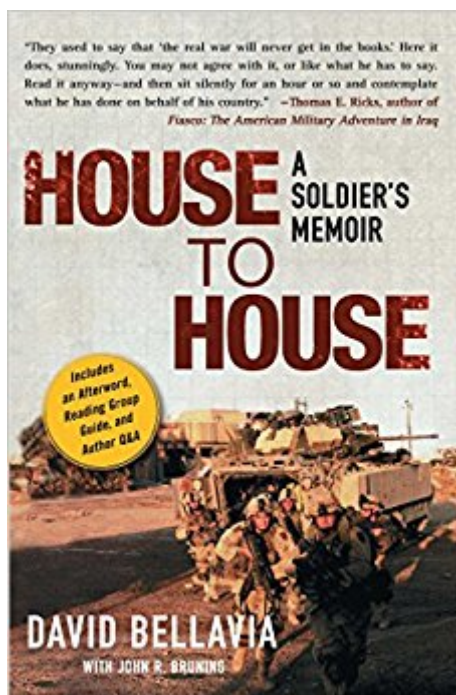


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House To House: A Soldier's Memoir



Synopsis

House to House is a soldier's memoir that is destined to rank with the finest personal accounts of men at war. An instant classic in hardcover, this timeless story features a new afterword and a question and answer section with the author. Bringing to searing life the terrifying intimacy of hand-to-hand infantry combat, House to House is far more than just another war story. Populated by an indelibly drawn cast of characters, it develops the intensely close relationships that form between soldiers under fire. Their friendships, tested in brutal combat, would never be quite the same. What happened to them in their bloody embrace with America's most implacable enemy is a harrowing, unforgettable story of triumph, tragedy, and the resiliency of the human spirit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Staff sergeant Bellavia's account of the fierce 2004 fighting in Fallujah will satisfy readers who like their testosterone undiluted. Portraying himself as a hard-bitten, foul-mouthed, superbly trained warrior, deeply in love with America and the men in his unit, contemptuous of liberals and a U.S. media that fails to support soldiers fighting in the front lines of the global war on terror, Bellavia begins with a nasty urban shootout against Shiite insurgent militias. Six months later, his unit prepares to assault the massively fortified city of Fallujah in a ferocious battle that takes up the rest of the book. Anyone expecting an overview of strategy or political background to the war has picked the wrong book. Bellavia writes a precise, hour-by-hour account of the fighting, featuring repeated heroic feats and brave sacrifice from Americans but none from the enemy, contemptuously dismissed as drug-addled, suicidal maniacs. Readers will encounter a nuts-and-bolts description of

weapons, house-to-house tactics, gallantry and tragic mistakes, culminating with a glorious victory that, in Bellavia's view, will go down in history with the invasion of Normandy. Like a pitch-by-pitch record of a baseball game, this detailed battle description will fascinate enthusiasts and bore everyone else. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Staff Sgt. Bellavia brings it. This is life in the infantry, circa right now. They used to say that the real war will never get in the books. Here it does, stunningly. You may not agree with it, or like what he has to say. Read it anyway -- and then sit silently for an hour or so and contemplate what he has done on behalf of his country." -- Thomas E. Ricks, author of *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq and Making the Corps*"Like St. Mihiel, Normandy, Inchon, and Khe Sanh before it, Fallujah is one of the most horrific and hard-fought battles in U.S. history. SSG David Bellavia's riveting, poignant, and at times even humorous firsthand account vividly emphasizes why this battle must never be forgotten. And why, because of the breathtaking courage of Bellavia and his fellow troops, it was won." -- Andrew Carroll, editor of *War Letters and Behind the Lines*"David Bellavia shows us the stairways and alleys of Fallujah through the sights of his M-4. Politics and strategy are impossible luxuries for the combat infantryman, but Bellavia writes about even bigger themes: courage, fear, brotherhood, and duty. This is a humbling story, brilliantly told." -- Nathaniel Fick, author of *One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer*"A hair-raising tale of men in battle. House to House is about as raw and real as it gets." -- Evan Thomas, author of *Sea of Thunder*"House To House is a terrifically realistic account of the hardest kind of combat known to man. Staff Sergeant Bellavia puts you right there with his men as they see it. This is a must read." -- Gunnery Sgt. Jack Coughlin, USMC (Ret.), author of *Shooter: The Autobiography of the Top-Ranked Marine Sniper*"Bellavia is the legend from Iraq. He went house-to-house in Fallujah killing the terrorists -- alone! MUST reading for all grunts." -- Bing West, author of *No True Glory*"House to House is a charged and honestly stark view down the rifle-sights of an infantryman during a crucial period in Iraq. Bellavia is our man with boots on the ground. To read this book is to know intimately the daily grind and danger of men at war." -- Anthony Swofford, author of *Jarhead*

This book is a must read for anyone wanting to have an understanding of what went on in Fallujah in November of 2004. I am a history buff and have read many books on war, especially WW2 and Vietnam, but this was my first on the Iraq war. I almost read this book straight through--it's that good that I couldn't put it down. SSgt David Bellavia puts you right in the action. There were some

reviews that criticized the writing. Pay no attention to them. I'm no literary expert so I wouldn't even try to review it from that perspective anyway. To me it read like a very well written narrative of Sgt Bellavia's experiences in the many battles he and his men fought in. He pulls no punches in describing the battle scenes and his unique sense of humor provided many good laughs in an otherwise tense and gritty read. He and the men he fought beside are the real deal and some of the greatest heroes in this world. It is good to know that there are still people in this country that are willing sacrifice so much to fight the evil in this world. I have never met Sgt Bellavia in person but have spoken to him on the radio as he co-hosts a local talk radio show, so it was an added bonus that when I read this book I could "hear" his voice speaking the words. I got the Kindle edition and didn't discover until I was finished reading that there are several pictures in the back showing most of the guys featured in the book. I'd suggest checking them out first to give you a better picture of the book as you read it. As for me, I will read it again and when my boys are old enough (strong and graphic language throughout) I will strongly encourage them to read it too.

Some books deserve the respect of intense reading.....the "no way I'm putting this down" until there are no alternatives or you finally fall asleep at 0400 hours. The short nights were worth it. My guess is they will be for you as well. This goes far deeper than reading a story told by the one who lived it. For each of us this may be different. Regardless, the book is a gift from the deep places within the heart of the writer that can touch deep places within us if we let it. My thanks to David for having the courage to write and the compassion to be compelled by a love far greater than himself.

It took me a bit to put the words together in my head what I wanted to say in my review of House to House. I absolutely loved it, that was never a question. My confusion was how to convey how much I loved it and what a book like this means to me. House to House is the memoir of David Bellavia's time as a soldier in Iraq and in particular his and his unit's experiences in the second Battle of Fallujah, which took place in November of 2004 and was arguably the bloodiest battle in the Iraq war. The Army was in the Battle of Fallujah! I honestly didn't even know that prior to reading this book. The tiniest bit that I've read on the battle was in the main stream news, and of the information I've seen on it in the past it is all about the US Marines' involvement in the battle. As a matter of fact I didn't know a fraction of the information about the Iraq war that was provided in this book. Laid out in a manner that is in your face and impossible to ignore, David Bellavia tells us what it is like for a soldier to be in the middle of battle and you feel every word of it. I don't pretend to know what it's like for a soldier in the middle of a war because I've read a book or in particular this book. I know this

book wasn't written for SSG Bellavia to thump his chest and show the world he is "the man". I especially know this wasn't written for the American people to show pity or feel sorry for our soldiers. This was written to open the eyes of the reader to see what it takes to be a soldier in the US Army infantry and the values that these men hold dear. Their cause is just, they go off to war to serve their country. But what they are truly fighting for is the man on their left side and the man on their right side who has become their brother. This point was gotten through to me crystal clear. Not once did I get the impression that David Bellevia was showing off, or blasting his own horn, as after this battle he would have every right to do. He constantly told how proud he was of his men, how honored he was to serve with Fitts, Faulkenburg, Iwan, Simms, Cantrell and on several different occasions indicating how other soldiers both his subordinates and his superiors were his heroes. In fact, the amount of modesty in this man astounded me. He was recommended to receive the Medal of Honor for events that took place in this book. But in SSG Bell's description of these events he is not bragging but almost criticizing himself for how he handled himself. At no point in this book did he mention any of his awards that he's received as a soldier. Which include a Bronze Star and a Silver Star. This book wasn't written for others to recognize him as a hero, but for us to recognize his fellow soldiers and what they've endured, proven and sacrificed. House to House is written in a crude in-your-face manner, which is sure to grab anyone's attention. This is definitely not for the faint or delicate of heart as just about every other word is referring to some kind of violent act, killer weapon or an f-bomb (which is part of the reason I loved it so much, it was real dialogue). I would and have recommended this to anyone interested in reading a story of true life military heroism at it's most horrifically described.

frightening and ultimately a read that gives a bitter taste of what is really happening on the battlefields of the Middle East. With rare exception it drives disdain for journalists to a new low, and an unexpectedly new level of respect and honor for those who carry a weapon, the flag and ultimately every American citizen on their shoulders. A must read if you wish to risk a glance of what is really happening to our warriors. May they all be blessed with the understanding they seek.

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