



Consequence: A Memoir

By Eric Fair

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A man questions everything--his faith, his morality, his country--as he recounts his experience as an interrogator in Iraq; an unprecedented memoir and "an act of incredible bravery" (Phil Klay)

"Remarkable... Both an agonized confession and a chilling expose of one of the darkest interludes of the War on Terror. Only this kind of courage and honesty can bring America back to the democratic values that we are so rightfully proud of." --Sebastian Junger

Consequence is the story of Eric Fair, a kid who grew up in the shadows of crumbling Bethlehem Steel plants nurturing a strong faith and a belief that he was called to serve his country. It is a story of a man who chases his own demons from Egypt, where he served as an Army translator, to a detention center in Iraq, to seminary at Princeton, and eventually, to a heart transplant ward at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 2004, after several months as an interrogator with a private contractor in Iraq, Eric Fair's nightmares take new forms: first, there had been the shrinking dreams; now the liquid dreams begin. By the time he leaves Iraq after that first deployment (he will return), Fair will have participated in or witnessed a variety of aggressive interrogation techniques including sleep deprivation, stress positions, diet manipulation, exposure, and isolation. Years later, his health and marriage crumbling, haunted by the role he played in what we now know as "enhanced interrogation," it is Fair's desire to speak out that becomes a key to his survival. Spare and haunting, Eric Fair's memoir is both a brave, unrelenting confession and a book that questions the very depths of who he, and we as a country, have become.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of April 2016: There are many exceptional accounts written about the war in Iraq-- so many that, despite their merits, I must admit to experiencing a bit of "war book" fatigue. So, for a story of this stripe to rise above the fray, it has to possess something special that sets it apart. Eric Fair's *Consequence* very much does. Chronicling his experiences as an interrogator in prisons, including the infamous Abu Ghraib, Fair's disarmingly matter-of-fact memoir addresses the moral ambiguity and emotional toll our soldiers' actions take. Yes, *Consequence* fuels the debate about enhanced interrogation techniques, but in a human rather than partisan way, and in doing so, holds a mirror to the country's face and asks: Do you like what you see? --*Erin Kodicek*

Review

Named one of "8 Books You Need to Read This April" by **Vulture**

"Important. . .candid and chilling. . .At once an agonized confession of [Fair's] own complicity as an interrogator at Abu Ghraib and an indictment of the system that enabled and tried to justify torture. . .here the sense of the absurd is infused with real horror and injustice. . .[a] profoundly unsettling book." ?**Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times**

"Essential reading. . .An overdue reckoning. . .[Fair] never shirks responsibility or offers excuses...he gives us simply a record of what happened. . .[CONSEQUENCE's] pages comprise an atrocity measured in maimed Muslim bodies and minds ? and the associated moral injuries to U.S. service members. Scars of the soul do not easily heal. Nor perhaps should they. No other book guides readers so honestly and so succinctly through this grim chapter in U.S. history." ?**Kael Weston, The Washington Post**

". . .Brave, chilling, necessary. No one is absolved." ?**Atul Gawande, author of Being Mortal**

"[Fair's] decision to assemble [his experiences] into a memoir isn't necessarily heroic, but his self-lacerating moral clarity might be. Fair's journey from Pennsylvania to the army, the police, government-contract work, a Christian seminary, and a heart transplant ? all narrated in staccato present tense ? fills out the picture of a good soldier doing bad work in a terrible war." **Vulture's "8 Books You Need to Read this April", New York Magazine**

"An act of incredible bravery. If we, as a country, are ever to fully account for the past decade of war and what it meant, we need those who participated to have the courage to tell us what was done in our name. Eric Fair does not speak in euphemisms. He does not justify or condemn. He merely tells us what happened. And that is something we desperately need to hear." ?**Phil Klay**

" . . .Harrowing. . .Fair is a gifted writer, and his capacity for self-examination makes this work both deeply insightful and moving." ?**Publishers Weekly, starred review**

Startling...affecting...candid and deeply unsettling ...Eschewing abstract discussions of torture and the war, the author offers a beguiling personal narrative that forces readers to share his pain and uncertainty over his circumstances...Told against the background of his failing heart (he required a transplant), his failing hometown (Bethlehem Steel went bankrupt), and his war-strained marriage...[Fair's story] points up the larger failures of interrogators like himself to prevent abusive acts and of the country to end its endorsement

of torture." **Kirkus, starred review**

"It takes a lot of courage to write honestly about one's own mistakes, and even more courage to write about the mistakes of one's country. Eric Fair has done both. This remarkable book is both an agonized confession and a chilling exposé of one of the darkest interludes of the War on Terror. Only this kind of courage and honesty can bring America back to the democratic values that we are so rightfully proud of." **Sebastian Junger**

"I don't think Eric Fair writes so we might laud him for courage or artistry. The complex reckoning within these pages mirrors our wars, which have been fought in a similar, gray morality. So this book deserves that singular and highest of compliments: It is honest." **Elliot Ackerman, author of *Green on Blue***

"A glimpse into the inner workings of someone who has been at the center of some of the most vexing issues of the past decade...Artful, understated, surprising...We have read a lot about war lately, but we have never read anything like this." **Nick Flynn**

"Eric Fair writes hauntingly and sparingly...This book is an important step for our country, in coming to terms with the reality of what we did, and what Eric and others did in our name." **Scott Cooper, National Security Outreach Director at Human Rights First**

"In Eric Fair's earth-shaking memoir, *Consequence*, we hear a profoundly courageous, essential voice of personal and national accountability." **Kelle Groom, author of *I Wore the Ocean in the Shape of a Girl***

"The story of Eric Fair's headlong plunge into this 'nightmare in Iraq' and its aftermath remains with the reader long after the last page, as we consider the ethical consequences not only for Eric's own life but for all citizens with any sort of conscience." **Kelly Denton-Borhaug, Ph.D., author of *U.S. War-Culture, Sacrifice and Salvation***

"A harrowing and thought-provoking read, a book that we believe will spark discussion nationwide."
Barnes & Noble's Discover Great New Writers Selection Committee

About the Author

Eric Fair, an Army veteran, worked in Iraq as a contract interrogator in 2004. He won a Pushcart prize for his 2012 essay "Consequence," which was published first in *Ploughshares* and then in *Harper's Magazine*. His op-eds on interrogation have also been published in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. He lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Willie Long:

Book is to be different for each and every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As we know that book is very important for people. The book *Consequence: A Memoir* had been making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The e-book *Consequence: A Memoir* is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with all the book *Consequence: A Memoir*. You never sense lose out for everything should you read some books.

Mark Fetter:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information these days can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is inside the former life are hard to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take *Consequence: A Memoir* as the daily resource information.

Tammy Paradis:

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Sheila Collins:

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