



War of the Rats

By David L. Robbins

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For six months in 1942, Stalingrad is the center of a titanic struggle between the Russian and German armies—the bloodiest campaign in mankind's long history of warfare. The outcome is pivotal. If Hitler's forces are not stopped, Russia will fall. And with it, the world....

German soldiers call the battle *Rattenkrieg*, **War of the Rats**. The combat is horrific, as soldiers die in the smoking cellars and trenches of a ruined city. Through this twisted carnage stalk two men—one Russian, one German—each the top sniper in his respective army. These two marksmen are equally matched in both skill and tenacity. Each man has his own mission: to find his counterpart—and kill him.

But an American woman trapped in Russia complicates this extraordinary duel. Joining the Russian sniper's cadre, she soon becomes one of his most talented assassins—and perhaps his greatest weakness. Based on a true story, this is the harrowing tale of two adversaries enmeshed in their own private war—and whose fortunes will help decide the fate of the world.

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

David L. Robbins grimly recounts the merciless determination of the German and Soviet combatants of the battle of Stalingrad in *War of the Rats*. Drawing from real events, Robbins tells the story of one of the battle's most pivotal contests: the famous sniper duel between Chief Master Sergeant Vasily Zaitsev and S.S. Colonel Heinz Thorvald. Zaitsev, a cunning Siberian hunter hardened by Stalingrad's butchery, has formed an impromptu sniper school in the midst of the battle, training his comrades to kill with implacable efficiency. The hundreds of bodies left in their wake prompt the Nazi leadership to send Thorvald, the cold-blooded master of the Wehrmacht's elite sniper academy, to assassinate the Soviet prodigy. Robbins's nerve-wracking prose depicts the two adversaries as they pursue their private war across a twisted hellscape of burning tanks and gutted factories. In the novel's most impressive section, Robbins leaps between the thoughts of Zaitsev and Thorvald as they struggle, in their final battle, to put the crosshairs on each other's head. A war novel that reveals the shrewd savagery in human nature, *War of the Rats* vividly reveals why the Germans referred to the fighting at Stalingrad as *Der Rattenkrieg*. --James Highfill

From Publishers Weekly

Set in the rubble of Stalingrad during WWII, Robbins's second novel hinges on a dramatic mano a mano confrontation between a Russian sniper and his German counterpart during a pivotal stretch of the historic 1942 siege. Vasily Zaitsev is "The Hare," a hunter from the Ural Mountains with deadly skills as a chief master sergeant in the Red Army. His proficiency as a marksman attracts considerable attention from both sides, starting when his Russian bosses put him in charge of a "sniper school" to supplement the front-line soldiers. Zaitsev and his students have so much success against the Nazis that the Germans deploy a master sniper of their own, SS Colonel Heinz Thorvald (aka "The Headmaster"), to assassinate Zaitsev and turn the tide in the battle for Stalingrad. The beleaguered city itself becomes a character in the struggle as Zaitsev and Thorvald attempt to outmaneuver one another. Stalingrad also harbors a pair of lovers, as Zaitsev conducts a passionate affair with fellow sniper Tania Chernova, the headstrong daughter of New York-dwelling Russian immigrants. Tania joins the fight for Russia after she travels to Minsk in hopes of rescuing her grandparents, only to watch them die at the hands of the Germans. Robbins does a brilliant job of dissecting the unique mindset and steely emotions that snipers must possess and painting the battle scenes, but none of the primary characters escapes war novel clichés. The final confrontation takes a while to play out, but once Robbins (*Souls to Keep*) gets to the heart of the matter, he presents a riveting account of a battle within a battle, and the sniper motif proves an ideal vehicle to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of both sides. Agent, Marcy Posner. (July)

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From Library Journal

Robbins's historically accurate best seller *War of the Rats* re-creates one of the most important but least-known battles of World War II: Stalingrad, the bloodiest campaign in the history of war. In the heart of the wrecked Russian city Zaitsev, a Russian sniper so demoralizes the German officer corps that they bring from Berlin their best sharpshooter, the Headmaster, the man who trains Germany's marksmen. For the listener, life in Stalingrad's crucible becomes a battle of wits as two killers go one on one. But the author does not neglect the impact of the battle on other participants. The story is unforgettable, and the skillful narration by George Guidall makes this work a classic. Essential for virtually every library. --James L. Dudley, Westhampton Beach, NY

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roberto Senn:

Hey guys, do you desire to find a new book you just read? May be the book with the name War of the Rats suitable to you? Typically the book was written by renowned writer in this era. The book untitled War of the Rats is the main of several books which everyone read now. That book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new shape that you ever know prior to. The author explained their concept in the simple way, and so all of people can easily understand the core of this book. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world with this book.

Clarence Ross:

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Rhonda Silva:

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Mary Norman:

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