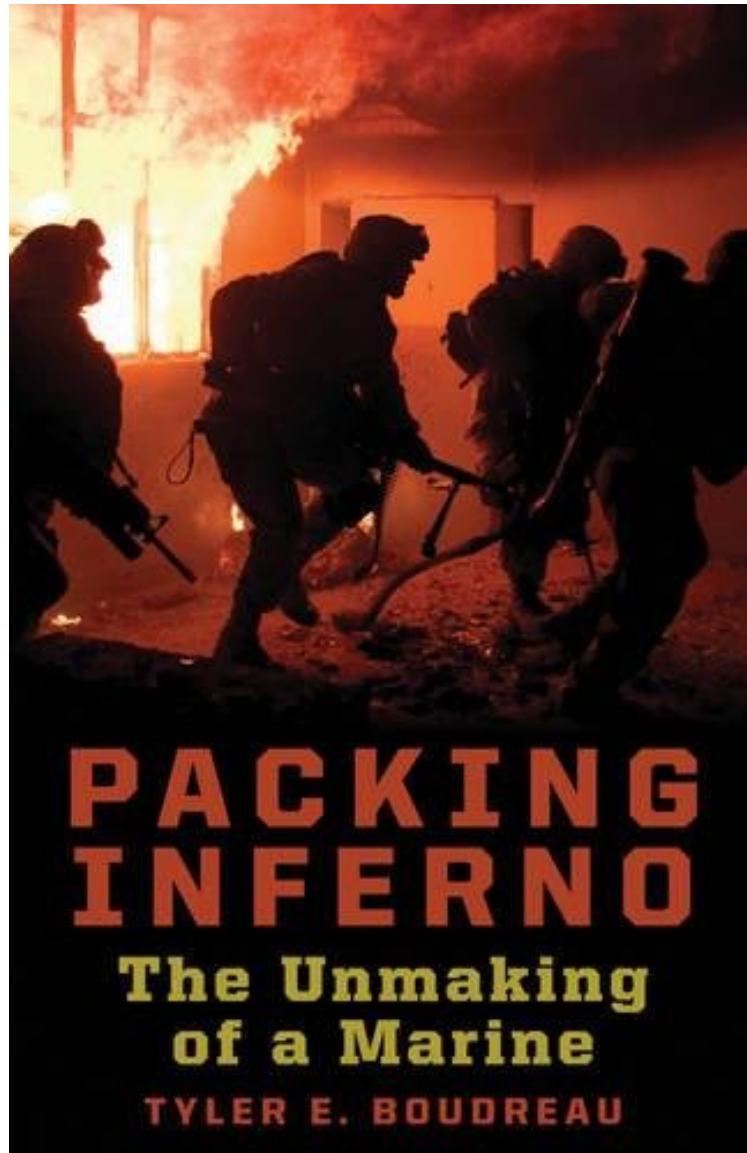


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Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine

Tyler E. Boudreau

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Tyler E. Boudreau : Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Packing Inferno: The Unmaking of a Marine:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tales of Fighting the Nameless, Faceless Enemies in "The War on Terror" By Graveyard Dave A worthy and important book from a Marine who lived the truth of another unclear war waged against a ghost-like, unfocused enemy. Tyler Boudreau always wanted to fight the Good Fight in a Righteous

War Against Tyranny. He joined with no delusions of Collegiate Brotherhood or Learning a Trade; he wanted it hard and dirty. That's what he got. But over time he began to question the motives behind the STILL ongoing "War on Terror" - the longest running conflict in U.S. history. He doesn't turn cowardly or begin pointing fingers at whomever thought the war on Islamic Terror was a good idea, but he relates the rather pointless and frustrating battle against a foe he cannot see - the shadows that plant IEDs along the heavily traveled roads and fire rockets from places that are abandoned long before the troops are able to locate them. Boudreau does not pontificate and whine, he just tells us the things that happened to him, around him, and because of him. And he brings the war home in his head, attached like some dead conjoined sibling that he must drag along with him through "regular" civilian life. A well written and eye opening book on the endless confusion, smoke and mirrors of our Corporate Puppet Masters sending our young men to die in nameless deserts for something thus far undefined by the "Masters of War."

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bittersweet
By Laura C. Newman
As a long lost friend, I bought a copy of Tyler Boudreau's book to catch a glimpse of what he had been up to over the past two decades. I was expecting it to be a story about war, but categorizing it as a "war book" would do the book, and the author, a disservice. Labeling it a "military diary" of sorts, only skims the surface of this page-turning book documenting his time in the Marines and eventually Iraq. What struck me most were the small details in the book that even a civilian like me could relate to. The intense craving of a Pop Tart and the subsequent betrayal when it goes missing, the helplessness and rage when a bottle of salad dressing slips through his hands, and the fear associated, not with dying in war, but with letting go of attachments...ultimately ending a 15 year love affair with the United States Marine Corps. Written with honesty, smarts, and wit, *Packing Inferno* is a tribute to our service men and women. The lessons Tyler learned, can be applied to all walks of life. We are all on that quest to fulfill our dreams, but how do we cope when our dreams fails us?

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A must read for all peacemakers.
By Edward H. Folkwein
This book helped me understand the need and desire to satisfy the warrior in many people. Tyler Boudreau tells why he enlisted in the Marines and the positive effects on him. He explains why he continued the journey from 'grunt' to an officer. His truthful story raises many questions about war, especially killing, contradictory goals and orders and the mental anguish resulting from a killing culture. Boudreau's honest telling of his experiences when he returned home from Iraq, opened my eyes to the seemingly extreme responses from my veteran friends in certain situations. He raises the issue of why more people don't question the insanity of war, especially faith-based folks. Be aware that Boudreau writes like a Marine talks. Read, ponder and become sensitized to many who have returned from military service and are trying to adjust to a life without killing. Peace, seek peace.

Tyler E. Boudreau is a twelve-year veteran of the Marine Corps infantry. He trained and committed himself physically and intellectually to the military life. Then his intense devotion began to disintegrate, bit by bit, during his final mission in Iraq. After returning home, he discovered a turmoil developing in his mind, estranging him from his loved ones and the bill of goods he eagerly purchased as a marine officer. *Packing Inferno* is the spectacularly written story of the ordeal of a marine officer in battle and then coming home. It is the struggle with a society resistant to understand the true nature of war. It is the fight with combat stress and an exploration into the process of recovery. It is the search for conscience, family, and ultimately for one's essential self. Here are the reflections of a man built by the Marine Corps, disassembled by war, and left with no guidance to rebuild himself. This is Tyler E. Boudreau's first book. He currently lives in western Massachusetts, where he works with other veterans on many projects related to war.

From Publishers Weekly
Former marine officer Boudreau documents his struggles with the demons of war in this uneven memoir. Initially infatuated with war, the author was deployed to Iraq in March 2004 as the assistant operations officer for an infantry battalion. His wartime experiences, however, left him increasingly disillusioned and ambivalent; unable to face another deployment, Boudreau resigned from the Marine Corps after 12 years of service. The author's rage stems from his frustration with the U.S. mission in Iraq, which he concludes is un-accomplishable, noting, I see my fellow Marines getting blown away for nothing and with no chance whatsoever of success. Boudreau dismisses the surge strategy and greets stories of tactical success with skepticism. The author's efforts to call attention to veterans' psychological wounds are commendable, but his brief against the U.S. mission in Iraq a labyrinth of... unattainable goals is supported by occasionally suspect statistics (i.e., his exaggerated figures for army suicides). Boudreau writes convincingly about his inner struggles and draws on a seabag of colorful anecdotes to support his observations and conclusions in this provocative if flawed memoir. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

About the Author
Tyler Boudreau grew up in the Boston area and joined the Marine Corps infantry in 1989. Upon completion of his enlistment, he attended college, earned his commission, and returned to the Marines as an infantry officer in 1997. After his tour in Iraq and twelve years of active service, he resigned his commission in 2005.