



# The Expendables

*Leonard B. Scott*

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## **The Expendables** Leonard B. Scott

"Military fiction buffs looking for immersion in authentic renderings of infantry combat will appreciate Scott's latest Vietnam war story."

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Four men who had nothing in common -- except the raw courage that was their greatest weapon during the fierce thirty-five-day conflict of the Ia Drang. This is the story of the men who fought with them -- and the 304 who didn't return.

## **The Expendables Details**

Date : Published December 23rd 1992 by Ballantine Books (first published 1991)

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Author : Leonard B. Scott

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# From Reader Review The Expendables for online ebook

## Pennylane3465 says

This one isn't really connected to the other three, but some of the characters are the same. Another good one!

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## Dylan Snell says

### Personal Response:

I really enjoyed reading this book. I probably enjoyed this book a lot because I know a lot about military stuff. I also enjoyed this book because it was about the Vietnam War. I like learning about the Vietnam War because my grandpa was actually in the war.

### Plot Summary:

The book starts out when Shawn Flynn(then a private) jumps out of an Army truck in the Korean War. He then was told to deliver radio batteries up to John Quail, who was stationed on a hill with the Colombians. While Shawn is up there, the Chinese decide to attack the hill. In the end, Shawn gets injured, and survives. He gains the respect of John. Flynn decides to make the Army his career.

Then the book jumps to a bunch of boys who are about 8 years old. It takes a while to establish the characters of Blake, Vinny, Eugene, and Lee. The major part of this was when Eugene's dad(a WWII veteran) takes him to the Veterans Day parade in town. They are told to leave because they are African-American.

It fast forwards and Flynn is in the Special Forces. He goes to Vietnam, and survives. He comes back home and finds out that his German born wife, Gretchen, dumped him for another soldier. Shawn flips out and punches Gretchen and the other guy(it doesn't give the name). Shawn gets thrown out of the Special Forces and is given a job as a range target supervisor.

Shawn does his job, but gets himself blasted drunk every night after work in a bar by his shabby trailer house. One night Cindy, the bar owner's sister-in-law, annoys Shawn so much, he tries to kill himself with his motorcycle. He survives. Cindy and Shawn then come really good friends.

After all getting mad/angry about different situations, Blake, Vinny and Lee enlist in the U.S. Army. Eugene gets drafted. They all get to be wonderful friends.

John(who now works for the Pentagon) finds out about how Shawn is living, and pulls strings to get him into the new airmobile division as a platoon leader. Shawn offers a marriage proposal to Cindy, but she turns it down. The platoon trains and eventually gets shipped to Vietnam. Right before they leave, John convinces Cindy to reconsider the marriage proposal, and she agrees. Shawn and Cindy get married.

The team goes into Vietnam. Blake is made the squad leader and they end up going into the 35 day battle of the Ia Drang. The Ia Drang was the first battle where the U.S. went up against regular North Vietnamese troops. The squad does really good on their first patrol, killing 8 North Vietnamese. They receive many awards when they get back to camp. They enter a couple more fire fights before the big battle.

John gets sent to Vietnam to check on the new division, and ends up in Blake's squad. The squad goes into the big battle as reinforcements and ends up going on a mission to find the other squads. The other squads are all dead. They then get entrenched during the night, and Blake, John, and other members of the squad get killed. Shawn, Vinny, Lee, and Eugene somehow are able to pull through until the morning, but all get wounded. They all get sent home.

The book ends when Shawn, Vinny, Lee, Eugene, Blake's Dad(in his honor), and Eugene's Dad all walk to the Veteran's Day Parade in Eugene's hometown, the same one near the beginning. The only difference though is that Eugene and his Dad can stay because segregation is illegal.

Recommendation:

I would recommend this book to middle or high schoolers because it is pretty big and has a few inappropriate scenes. There is also a lot of swearing(it is the Army) said by the characters. Also during the battles, it gets a little gory. If you want a good book that mixes fiction and real events, this is the book to read.

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### **Chuck says**

This is a fictional re-telling of the battle of Ia Drang, one of the bloodiest of the Viet Nam conflict. It also tells the story of the the formation of the First Air Cavalry and the innovative tactics they employed. We watch the development of an Air Cav division through the eyes of a squad and culminates with Ia Drang, the first time in the war that a U. S. Army division faces a regular North Vietnamese Army division as opposed to the less professional Viet Cong. Once again you can tell that Mr. Scott has been there and knows what he is writing about.

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### **Emma Mitchell says**

I read this book nearly 20 years ago and I still remember how much I loved it. Got my friends to read it... And unfortunately never got it back. One of my all time favourites. Glad that I can download it!

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### **Wayne Baxter says**

What did I love about this book? Like Leonard B. Scott books he doesn't dwell on the politics on the time, but the people on the ground. These boys weren't trying to bring freedom to some oppressed country they were just trying to bring themselves and their buddies home alive.

Their Sgt whose main message was not to die stupid. His motto for the enemy was simple, respect them, then hate em, Then kill em.He respected the enemy, he knew them to be hard dedicated people just trying to make their way in a country that has been at war for generations. He didn't permit his troopers to use the words 'gook' in his ear shot, which made it impossible, because he just seem to pop up when least expected. He knew the village on the outskirts of the base probably had sons that were fighting the americans. He never held that against them, it was just the nature of the thing.

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### **Tommy says**

Excellent war novel.

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## **John Morgan says**

The Expendables

By: Leonard B. Scott

When you were drafted it didn't matter if you were black, white, rich, or even poor. You went and did your country a service. The story of "The Expendables" is just that. A band of very different people, all from very different back grounds, and all drafted to service their country.

Charcters: Vinny: An Italian beat em up boy with a serious case of racism.

Blake: A rich boy who got tired of being pushed around by his dad.

` Eugene: An African American, and courageous but stubborn boy.

Cindy: A strong-willed women who had her baby boy die in a crib next to her still believes in love.

Shawn: The sarge. A tough grizzled old man who has had and seen a lot of horrors in his life but still believes.

Plot: The plot of the book "the Expendables" is about how a band of people from totally different backgrounds were all thrown together in a single place, the training ground of soldiers, considered hell, all managed to survive and yet still made it out alive and soldiers. Then went into combat as boys and came back men.

Opinion: although the book had a kind of a jumping type of quality about it I personally thought it was written quite well. Truthfully it would have been a better read if the print wasn't quite so small but you must understand that was done to save paper, but otherwise I must say quite a good read. It has both a sense of brotherhood and togetherness but yet a morbid type of sense you will gather from the very descriptive book.

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## **Ray says**

The most outstanding War Novel that I have ever read!

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## **Shanna Crones says**

One of the first war novels I ever read and still one of my favorites!

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**Joe says**

Excellent book.

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