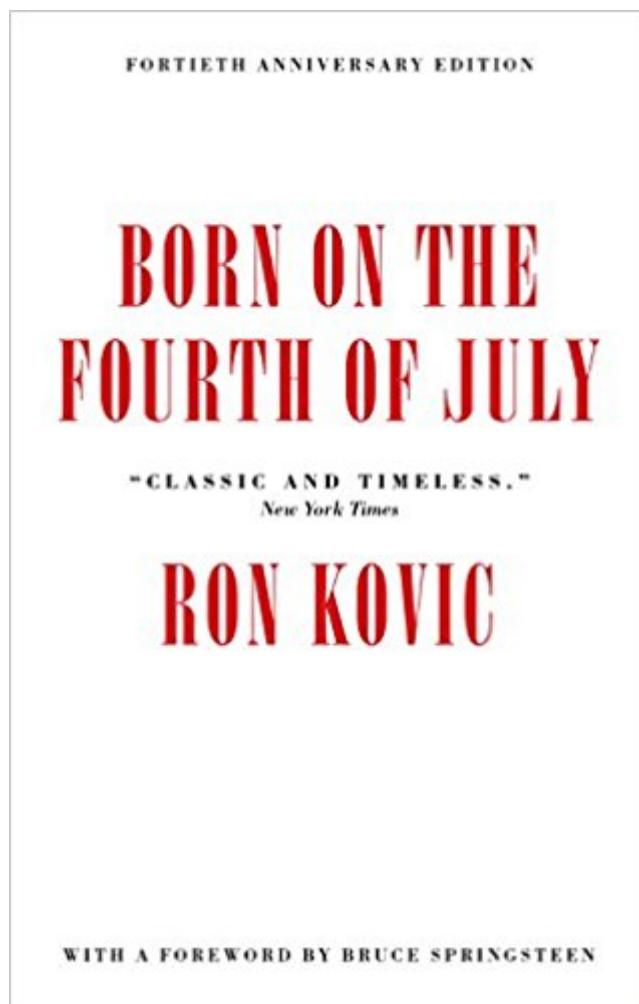


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Born On The Fourth Of July: 40th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

"Classic and timeless."--New York Times"The book details Kovic's entering of the Vietnam War as a fierce, pro-war patriot before becoming an outspoken peace activist after an injury paralyzed him and he returned home to a cold reception."--Rolling Stone"Born on the Fourth of July tells the story of its author's transition from war hawk to protestor after being paralyzed in Vietnam, and coming home to a lukewarm reception. It's no coincidence that 'Born in The U.S.A.' tells very much the same tale."--Billboard"Kovic's book follows him from star high school wrestler to a patriotic American inspired by John F. Kennedy to join the marines to the traumatic 1968 wartime injury that left him paralyzed from the chest down to his emergence as an outspoken anti-war activist."--Hollywood Reporter"The 1976 book, which was made into an Oscar winning film starring Tom Cruise in 1989, details Kovic's period in the Vietnam War as a fierce, pro-war patriot before he became an outspoken peace activist after an injury paralysed him and he returned home to a cold reception."--NME"He was born in the U.S.A.--and on the 4th of July. Bruce Springsteen narrates a foreword he wrote in the new audiobook edition of Born on the Fourth of July, Ron Kovic's anti-Vietnam War memoir."--New York Daily News"There is no better time than Independence Day to listen [to] The Bossâ™ iconic voice on the foreword and this great work of art."--Examiner"For the 40th anniversary of the book, which became a movie in the '80s starring Tom Cruise, a new print edition was issued with a foreword written by Bruce Springsteen, and the audiobook is the only place where you can hear Bruce read his foreword directly to you. Thatâ™s right, the Boss sets the tone for this extremely powerful and moving memoir in a way that you wonâ™t want to miss."--Omnivoracious"Forty years ago the Vietnam vet from Massapequa--wounded in combat and in a wheelchair ever since--published his classic war memoir, later made into a film with Tom Cruise. The anniversary edition features a foreword by Bruce Springsteen. Kovic's new book, Hurricane Street, chronicles the 1970s activism of the American Veterans Movement."--Newsday"Born on the Fourth of July chronicles Kovic's transformation from a gung-ho soldier entering the Vietnam War to his return home as a paralyzed man. His experiences overseas, as well as the terrible way he was treated when he came back, made Kovic's book one of the antiwar movement's most celebrated works."--Ultimate Classic Rock"Kovic entered of the Vietnam War as a fierce, pro-war patriot before becoming an outspoken peace activist after an injury paralyzed him and he returned home to a cold reception as a veteran. His book tells his story."--Radio.com"Born on the Fourth of July tells the story of Kovic's enlistment and how he became disillusioned with the war over time and especially after he returned home to the States. Many of the book's themes are echoed in Springsteen's hit song, 'Born in the U.S.A.'"--Asbury Park

PressWith a new foreword by Bruce Springsteen.This New York Times best seller (more than one million copies sold), presented here in a special fortieth-anniversary edition with a brand-new foreword by Bruce Springsteen, details the author's life story (portrayed by Tom Cruise in the Oliver Stone film)--from a patriotic soldier in Vietnam, to his severe battlefield injury, to his role as the country's most outspoken anti-Vietnam War advocate, spreading his message from his wheelchair.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Kovic's tale of patriotic disillusionment and poor treatment of veterans is as sadly relevant today as it was 40 years ago."--Self Awareness for Readers A Great Reads Selection"Ron Kovic is one of the premier voices of a generation. The large irony of his birthday provides the background for a journey which begins with the unquestioning service in Vietnam, his terrible wounding with all the anger and bitterness that follows, and ends with his passionate discovery of a large and all-too-human heart."--Larry Heinemann, author of *Paco's Story*"There is no book more relevant in the twenty-first century to healing the wound of Vietnam, which continues to bring so much pain to our country. . . . It remains to Kovic to remind us that history matters, and that the cost of our high follies persists."--Robert Scheer, editor-in-chief of *Truthdig*"Ron Kovic's terrible tragedy is America's."--*Los Angeles Times*"Ron Kovic has returned from the dead and given us an honest, unrefined account of his struggle."--*Washington Post*"This New York Times bestseller details the author's life story (portrayed by Tom Cruise in the Oliver Stone film version) from a patriotic soldier in Vietnam, to his

severe battlefield injury, to his role as the country's most outspoken anti-“Vietnam War advocate.”--Off the Shelf, Included in 11 Powerful Books That Explore the Legacy of the Vietnam War

Kovic's powerful and moving new introduction to his New York Times bestselling book sets this classic antiwar story in a contemporary context. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Sometimes people write their own stories and they make themselves out to be better people than they are. Better people than any of us are, really! Ron Kovic doesn't do that in his book. He shows himself as a regular, naive kid who goes to war because it looks so great in the movies, and because he wants to be a hero like the veterans who march in the parades each year on his birthday. And he makes mistakes in Vietnam, which he owns up to, and he shares how much they eat at him. And then when he is injured, he doesn't stoically talk about what he thinks WE will consider important. He spends a lot of time grieving his sex life, and his ability to have a relationship with a woman and father children. And then more about his sex life being over before it started. Which is probably what most 20 year old guys would really have at the top of their list most of the time. He tells some horror stories about the VA hospitals, which is sad because they're still in the headlines to this day for shoddy practices. And he delves into his anti-war work. I took away a star because the book is so jarringly uneven. The narrative switches from 1st to 3rd person for no reason I could discern, sometimes changing more than once in a chapter. And it jumps around a lot, again not for any aesthetic reason. It almost seems like he typed the manuscript out and they published it with no editing. It would be wonderful to see a Special 50th Anniversary Edition (or whatever it would be) soon with a good bit of text revision just to clean it up, and then a few extra chapters detailing his peace efforts since the 70s. It's my understanding he's been busy this entire time, I bet he's got a lot of amazing insight to share! To sum up: Fascinating man, fascinating book, crummy editing, would love to read more!

When the movie with Tom Cruise first appeared, I was perhaps 8 or 9 years old. Being that young, I had no idea of the importance of the movie. I thought it was more comical when Tom Cruise was yelling, "Penis" in the house. I was more excited about the action sequences than what they really meant. Grown up now, and being the generation that goes to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, I had a new look on the film. When Ron, who was played by Tom Cruise, was searching the village, I felt

pain and panic. When he shot that other fellow soldier by accident, I felt a sadness. Even more so I felt extreme disgust and anger when Ron came back to a VA hospital that they could care less that he can't walk or that he's laying in his own waste. I think we were all blind once. You see on TV new gadgets and weapons that's suppose to make life easier for a fellow soldier. What they don't show you is what these weapons do to a actual person. Someone who is alive and thinking and breathing. These weapons are developed with the idea of spending millions of dollars to make sure that they hit the bad guys. Then you see the destruction it leaves behind with families torn apart, or children in pieces. And you wonder why? Even more surprising, they spend millions of dollars on these weapons of destruction, yet they don't spend a dime on healing the soldiers that used these weapons. The administration takes careful measure to make sure that you do not see the disabled. Even more so media only reports disabled people who have done well and can be shown in good light on tv with their families. You don't see the truly disabled, the ones that can't walk or talk or don't have a fully functional brain anymore. These people are carefully hidden away and dismissed as crazed lunatics. I think Ron has many valid points in his book. I felt Ron was correct in saying that we live in a nation that glorifies war but yet we don't want to live with the results or the consequences of those actions. Even more so, when we send thousands of troops oversea to an unknown land to fight something that isn't clear, then we really should ask ourselves what is going on. Whether there is an alternative? Or if it should even be discussed. I felt that Ron is right that we as a nation tells "lies." I didn't grow up during Vietnam, but I did grow up in the 9-11 era. I felt that yes, we should get the people who did this to justice but I felt at the same time we're fighting a war that really accomplished nothing at all. I felt Ron's words were truer than ever when he says that the "lies" told here is that we should honor America by being a soldier and fight corruption but at the same time we have no honor in killing the wrong people, people who had nothing to do with it. I feel that sadly Ron's word will not hit people until it's too late. A generation of people fought Vietnam. They are now in their 60s and sad to say the lessons they learned is not passed down. I suppose we can't live in "peace" by ignoring bad people but the answer is not always to go after them. It's sort of like to protect your house from robbers, you should go invade and take over a bad part of the city killing anyone that dare looks like they could rob your house. Everyone knows this is untrue, yet that is essentially what we're doing. My recommendation is to read the book by Ron. I feel that it goes into a bit of detail better than the movie. Also the movie was a bit different but I think it captured the meaning of the book. I bought it on my kindle and felt it was a good short read but one that has a lot of meaning.

What an excellent book about one man's experience with the Vietnam War and his subsequent turn to anti-war protester. Horrifying as to what happened to Kovic (paralyzed from the waist down, can't go to the bathroom like a normal human being again, can't ever have sex again, stuck in a wheelchair and with the horrors of battle forever fresh in his mind) and even more horrifying the way he was treated by others later - and *not* by liberal hippies, either. By the cops, mostly, who disliked the fact that he'd "turned coat"...never mind that none of them had been in Nam. Anyone who thinks only peaceniks abused vets when they came home from the war can disabuse themselves of that notion with this book. It reminded me of the first Rambo movie, First Blood, in which Our Hero is also abused by cops rather than freaks and longhairs.

I got this because Ron Kovic was here to do a book signing. It was at a small local bookstore and there were maybe 15 people there. Many were Vietnam vets. Ron read several passages from different sections and answered questions for about an hour.. If you ever have a chance to meet or listen to him speak, don't miss it. His passion for his work - advocating for veterans - is pretty amazing. It flows from him as naturally as breathing. I've just started reading the book and so far it shows the same passion that he does. Some of it isn't easy to read but then we're talking about what was for some of the men there, a pretty horrible experience. So yes, buy it. And read it. And when you're done say thanks to Ron for writing it.

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