

My First War: American-Latino Combat Photographer's Baptism of Fire...Journey to Manhood, Forgiveness, Love, and Professionalism...A Novella Inspired by True Events (Volume 2)

Jon Stevens Alon

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Targeting domestic and international Latino male readers between the ages of 18-49 demographics, a visceral novel of dreams, love, hate, civil war, violence, revenge, and ultimately forgiveness and redemption under fire. A towering father and son relationship story of ugliness and beauty, romance and bloodshed, cruelty and compassion, defeat and victory. Guatemala, 1982. A brutal civil war rages between government forces and leftist guerillas, each willing to commit atrocities against the innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of the violence in the name of a cause, revenge, and quest of political power. Into this horrifically violent conflict between opposing ideologies, Milton Gomez, a naïve and idealistic 24 year old American-Latino aspiring combat photographer, who had never stepped foot outside of California, and is steeped in a war glorifying culture of his own making, arrives wide-eyed and innocent in Guatemala to visit his estranged Tejano father, once an idealist combat photographer, but now a wild, burned-out, partially demented raging alcoholic with a bitter sense of dark humor who had not seen his son in twenty years, and is now determined to stop the young dreamer from following in his footsteps by taking him on a harsh journey over a bloody landscape of war that will test the young idealist's courage, values, humanity, and professional quest. A savage battle of wills ignite between the older man in need of forgiveness and redemption, and a bitter young man who has yet learned to forgive, and on the path to reconciliation, both men will find mutual reasons to eventually bond and discover the true meaning of unconditional love, before the fateful moment that the son will revisit for the rest of his life, as indeed he will follow in the footsteps of his father, and continue his legacy of not only bearing witness and participating in history, but recording it for the entire world to become aware of man's inhumanity to man, perhaps bringing about the change that the father had unsuccessfully fought for. Amid the brutality of war, the son will learn to not only never prejudge, but learn forgiveness, inspiring him to mature both as a man and a professional combat photographer. Told with brutal honesty, the Latino readers will share in the painful journey to manhood of a young man, and triumph of his spirit.



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