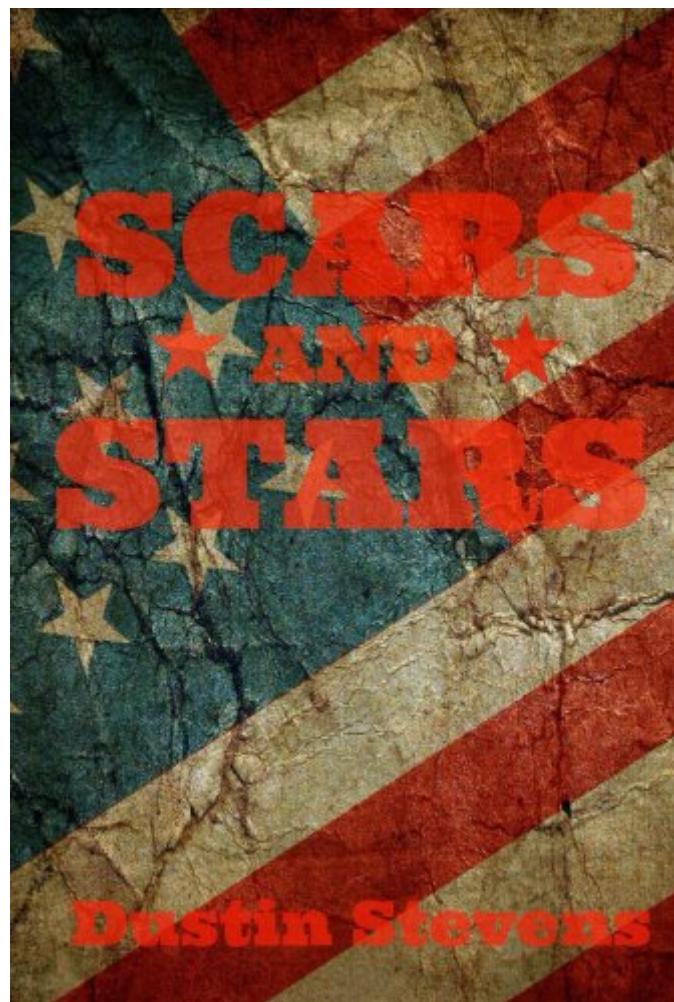


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# Scars And Stars



## **Synopsis**

.A boy of just six years old, Austin Roberts found himself perpetually in the way at the post-funeral gathering of his great uncle Jack. Frustrated and alone, he wandered out onto the front porch to find his great uncle Cat, Jack's brother, sitting alone, an old album on his lap. Oblivious to the world around them, the two begin an unlikely conversation and together embark on journey that stretches almost seven decades in length. Page by page, Cat imparts the story of the album to young Austin, using a series of seemingly mundane and unconnected objects to tell the story of the brothers Roberts from long ago. Beginning with their humble upbringing by a single mother on the river bottoms of rural Ohio to the day they left home to serve in the Korean, through their capture and escape from an unmarked prisoner of war camp and on through the lives they returned to, the album tells a story of bravery and brotherhood that knows no bounds.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I loved this book. It made me stand in awe of the patriotism of Uncle Cat and his brother, Jack, and also of every veteran who has ever seen service, but especially of those who have served in wartime. Every serviceman writes a blank check to his country, up to and including his life, but in his

book, the author explains so very clearly just what every moment during a war could be like. You get to experience the fear, but also the courage that a person can have under extreme circumstances. Under extreme pressure, people often find the courage to do the right thing, even when it's the hardest thing, and in *Scars and Stars*, thanks to the author, we get to experience how that feels. While at first glance, you might think this is a "man's" book, look a little further and read this book. It is not so much a book about a war, but rather, about the love of two brothers for each other, for their Mother, and for their country. The author employs the use of an album and a younger relative to tell the story of these Army servicemen brothers so effectively, so heart-wrenchingly, so beautifully, that any woman will also enjoy the book and be filled with thanks and pride for any veteran they know, whether male or female.

Looking back on some of my early reviews, I realized that I only write reviews of books I loved reading or books that totally failed to catch my attention. This was one of the former. My knowledge of the Korean War was based on watching *MASH* and a memory of seeing Douglas MacArthur storming off because he had been replaced as the top dog. "*Scars and Stars*" is a story within a story within a story. The recounting of the story of 2 brothers going off to war, then coming home and making a scrap book that contains the essence of their experiences during the war. After the funeral of the elder brother, many years later, the younger brother tells the story to his young nephew, using the scrap book, each page being a memory of what they went through in the war. Dustin Stevens writes in a very personal, familiar way, Although in some parts of the story the heroics feel a bit unreal. However, anyone who knows anything about war knows that there are times when people do super human things. This is a very well written story where you really care about the characters. I loved the way the story was presented in such a personal voice, one seen through the eyes of different people of different generations. I would highly recommend this book on several levels. It is something that shows the strong bond between brothers, part of our history that few people know about and it is especially a love story, a bond that few of us will ever understand. Even knowing that this was a novel, it brought me into a world that was, for the time I read it, totally real to me.

It's hard to imagine that anyone could ever call a war, a "forgotten one" but that is the unfortunate and even tragic label given to the Korean War. Perhaps a lot had to do with it originally being called a "police action"-- after all, America and other countries had just finished World War II--and no one certainly wanted another protracted war. Dustin Stevens book, *Scars and Stars*, helps readers to

remember this so-called "forgotten war." I like the way that author told the story; I thought it was quite ingenious. My only major criticism of the book are some historical and geographical inaccuracies, which if anyone is familiar with the conflict, will pick up on immediately. Nonetheless, this is a good story and definitely worth checking out. Jeffrey Miller, War Remains, A Korean War Novel

The excellence of this book is amazing. It encompasses a range of point of view of generations, from a boy's fascination with an old man's story and the brothers who enlist and face combat, are captured, but never lose their indomitable spirit despite their inhumane treatment and the physical demands to stay alive. At times the tension is so real it almost becomes personal to the reader. It is a well done story of determination and heroism, The bond between two brothers is the cornerstone of this cliff-hanger. If you want a book that you will be hesitant to put down, this is it. When you read the last of the story, have some tissues handy. This is the first of Stevens' work I have read. I was most pleasantly surprised, and will read more of his books.

Good read for those that never heard of Korea. I was only a kid but came to know a lot of Korean vets over the years. No wars are good but Korea was too sudden for a unprepared country just over ww2. No one I knew ever told of a "good" thing of the Korean war. This would be a good mandatory read for those choosing the military for a career. I have to say only one negative thing though. No passenger planes ever ever landed on a aircraft carrier then or now.

As a boy I knew WWII vets as my father, his friends and his generation. None of them ever wanted to talk of what they saw in the various WWII theaters. I should imagine that some of their stories would appear something like this story of two brothers in the harrowing action in Korea. Mr. Stevens writing is poignant in that he shows a desire of a veteran to share and continue the defining story of his life. In his books so far, Mr. Stevens seems to use protagonists who are strong and unassuming. The child and veteran in this book are no exception. A good and enlightening read.

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