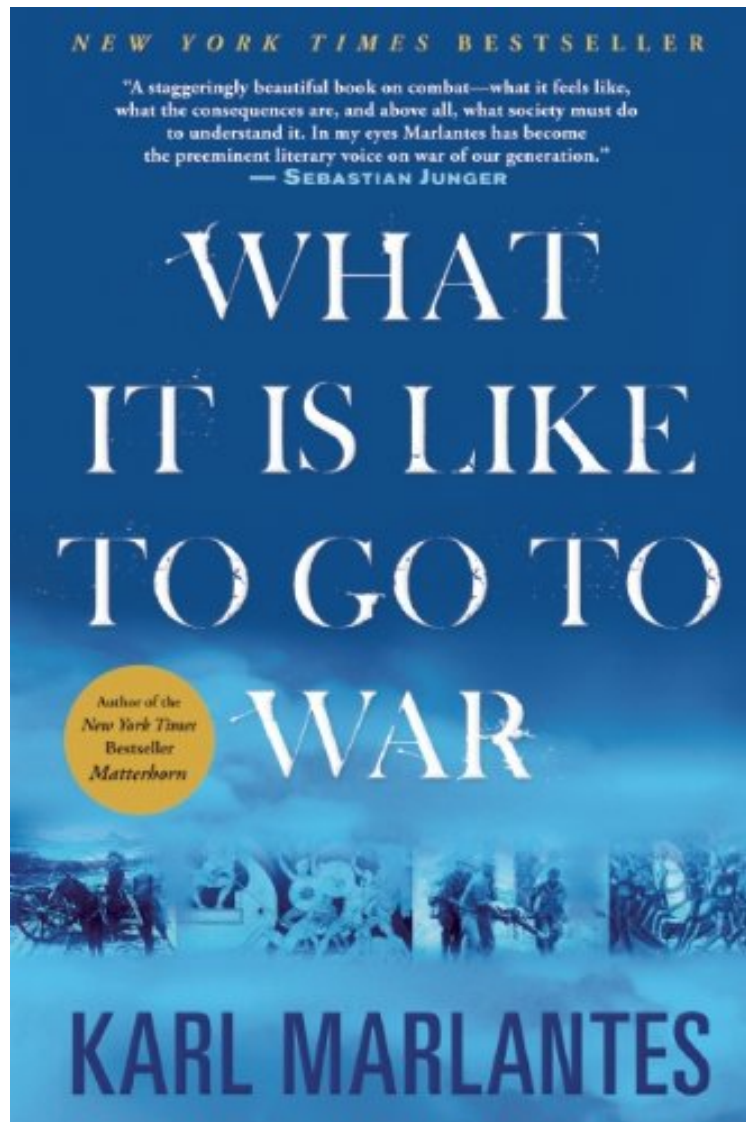


## What It Is Like To Go To War

*Karl Marlantes*

*ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#21435 in Books Karl Marlantes 2012-09-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 5.00 x .751, .70 #File Name: 0802145922272 pages What It Is Like to Go to War | File size: 28.Mb

**Karl Marlantes : What It Is Like To Go To War** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What It Is Like To Go To War:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Insider's ViewBy rchThis is a deeply philosophical and introspective book about our relationship to violence and our obedience to power and position. The other great books in this vein, "My War Gone By, I Miss It So" and "War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning," cover the same topics but they are not written by soldiers. Their ability to observe and articulate these themes is less impressive or elucidating since they are outsiders. I've yet to read "Matterhorn," Marlantes's novelization of the Vietnam War. Having read this, I will have to.

Solid book, solid man. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. In-depth, first-hand emotional and psychological insight into war and killing. By Michael McClure Marlantes has, obviously, done the work that is the difficult task of owning those things that are most real within himself. In so doing, he has put aside the easy banners and symbols of our cultural confusion where war and violence toward others are concerned. Yes, the book deals with many of the unaddressed issues of P.T.S.D. but, more interestingly, it asks the difficult questions that must be addressed to get behind and under the label and the larger actualities of war, the ones that will be forever carried by those who fight, kill and are wounded both physically and emotionally. To read his book is to begin to grapple with the extreme emotional and psychological nuance that is war. Through Marlantes' process, revealed in a sensitive and articulate read, we are able to enter into a living, first-hand account of those issues which are central to entering into violence and how we might begin to consider how and when we send our young people into harm's way. To me, the book is a re-visioning of what needs to be addressed not only by the individuals who go to war but the families they leave behind and return to in a vastly changed emotional state. Larger still, Marlantes' book can possibly change our collective minds about war and how we view it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hauntingly Familiar. By Tom HI can't remember the date of the brief question/answer discussion with Sebastian Junger during the Boston leg of his promotional tour for War. But I do remember being one of those annoying members of the audience who raise their hand in disagreement to some of those things that are said. Anyway, I purchased Matterhorn same day as the tour (and on recommendation of Mister Junger) but I have yet to crack the cover. Seems the attraction is there but also the fear of being pulled inside another person's narrative of events that, for the most part, I've left alone. Anyway, I am only halfway through this book (on page 100 of What It Is Like...) but feel the need to communicate feelings and experiences similar, in some respect, to the Author's. Maybe it's best to identify... I am no sort of war hero. In fact, were it not for volunteering for service in a Yankee Platoon I may not have experienced heavy combat at all. As it is, I did participate in several operations (while humping an M-60) and during several sweeps. And so I am more than familiar with daytime patrols, nighttime ambush, and etc. Thing is I served in Northern I Corps and travelled those same ragged hills and valleys as the author did during his tour of duty 1968-1969 (my service involved RVN 1966-1967 and Razorback Ridge during a forty day participation with 2/7 in relief of 2/4 during Operation Prairie). The author discovered his little boy hugging a photo of him smiling; only to discover punctures made by a ballpoint pen all through the photo. Similar I suppose to a situation discovered by my wife (a very long time ago it seems). One of my three boys took time to mangle a wedding album picture (the one where we're standing in full profile--with me wearing tuxedo and my wife in wedding gown) by stabbing the picture over and over while destroying the faces. Then there is the describing of the Shadow in all of us (as first mentioned by Jung and as a shadow I am all too familiar with after spending time in psych wards during the 80's--some of which time was spent at the PTSD clinic at Northampton Ma, and during combat Outward Bound). I've moved on from harmful activities of the sort that brought me to those places (largely by personal involvement and by growing into the role of responsible father and grandfather) while admittedly reverting at times to symptoms of psychological trauma (but I might add, only during those odd times of anniversary). Want to thank Mister Marlantes for exposing the truth to those who say they were but were not involved, while at the same time reaching out a hand to those others who haven't a damned clue of what goes on during or after heavy combat. He captured the feel of patrolling areas where the excitement, and tragedy of sudden combat mixed with death, is ever-present; the smell of mud, blood, and freezing cold; and the absolute dreariness of Northern Monsoon. From absolute exhilaration to complete emotional downfall. For the enlightenment, and the exposing of all that goes with it, I am most grateful. Tom Hyland E-4 USMC 1965-1968

#3 on Amazon.com's 10 Best Books of 2011  
The New Yorker Favorite Books from 2011  
Hudson Booksellers Best Books of 2011  
Barnes Noble Best Nonfiction Books of 2011  
St. Louis Post Dispatch Favorite Books of 2011  
A Shelf Awareness Reviewers Top Pick of 2011  
One of the most important and highly-praised books of 2011, Karl Marlantes' *What It Is Like to Go to War* is set to become just as much of a classic as his epic novel *Matterhorn*. In *What It Is Like to Go to War*, Marlantes takes a deeply personal and candid look at the experience and ordeal of combat, critically examining how we might better prepare our young soldiers for war. War is as old as humankind, but in the past, warriors were prepared for battle by ritual, religion, and literature which also helped bring them home. In a compelling narrative, Marlantes weaves riveting accounts of his combat experiences with thoughtful analysis, self-examination, and his readings from Homer to the Mahabharata to Jung. He makes it clear just how poorly prepared our nineteen-year-old warriors—mainly men but increasingly women—are for the psychological and spiritual aspects of their journey.

.com Best Books of the Month, September 2011: With unflinching honesty, bestselling author Karl Marlantes captures *What It Is Like to Go to War* in his compassionate, powerful narrative on Vietnam. Marlantes does not shy away from recounting experiences that, outside the arena of war, are horrifying or embarrassing and addresses a soldier's self-imposed code of silence as an attempt to fit back in to a society that simply wants us to shut up about all of this. While American pop culture celebrates the warrior spirit and winning the battle, reconciling the moral conduct we are taught with the brutal acts we do in war has been a problem for warriors of good conscience for centuries. Marlantes

tempers the brutal truths of fear, power games, and courage with a thoughtful prescription for our soldiers well-being; caring for our soldiers and their families differently will benefit society as a whole. In *What It Is Like to Go to War*, Marlantes sets a new standard for understanding the experience of war. --Seira Wilson

Karl Marlantes has written a staggeringly beautiful book on combat what it feels like, what the consequences are and above all, what society must do to understand it. In my eyes he has become the preeminent literary voice on war of our generation. He is a natural storyteller and a deeply profound thinker who not only illuminates war for civilians, but also offers a kind of spiritual guidance to veterans themselves. As this generation of warriors comes home, they will be enormously helped by what Marlantes has written. I'm sure he will literally save lives.

Sebastian Junger

Marlantes brings candor and wrenching self-analysis to bear on his combat experiences in Vietnam, in a memoir-based meditation whose intentions are three-fold: to help soldiers-to-be understand what they're in for; to help veterans come to terms with what they've seen and done; and to help policymakers know what they're asking of the men they send into combat.

The New Yorker

*What It Is Like to Go to War* is a well-crafted and forcefully argued work that contains fresh and important insights into what it's like to be in a war and what it does to the human psyche.

The Washington Post

Marlantes is the best American writer right now on war . . . With *What It Is Like to Go to War* a second Marlantes book resides on the top shelf of American literature.

Anthony Swofford, author of *Jarhead*

*What It Is Like to Go to War* ought to be mandatory reading by potential infantry recruits and by residents of any nation that sends its kids

Marlantes word into combat.

San Francisco Chronicle

In this thoughtful, literate work of self-exorcism, Marlantes tells tales of incredible bravery as well as brutality.

People Magazine

A precisely crafted and bracingly honest book.

The Atlantic

Marlantes knows what he writes. . . Raw, unsettling honesty pervades the work.

Time.com

Marlantes has written a sparkingly provocative nonfiction book. . . He is an exceptional writer and his depictions here are vivid.

BookPage

A gripping, first-person plea to consider the impact on the human spirit of being a soldier.

Huffington Post

Karl Marlantes, author of the excellent *What It Is Like To Go To War*, cautions his audience to understand the cost to the human psyche in sending others to kill in our names or for policies decided by politicians determined to use (and abuse) the power entrusted to their office.

Daily Planet

Karl Marlantes *What It Is Like to Go to War* is a deeply personal account of dealing with his harrowing time as a Marine Corps officer in Vietnam. . . . Marlantes' fiction might be just too wrenching for some readers to believe.

Logos

This absolutely unique and lucid personal account and analysis will be read with profit by scholars, general readers, and most particularly, by veterans of close combat. . . . The author is qualified by experience, education, temperament, and skill as a writer to make penetrating observations. Many are graphic, bold, and shocking. Some are erudite; some are ethereal; all are worthy of careful consideration. . . . His method is to reflect on a point important to him, to illustrate it with an anecdote or a combat experience, and to mull it over in sparkling prose that has the reader hanging on every word. . . . Mastery of our language and the creative use of poetic devices and images make his pronouncements memorable. . . . Marlantes has joined a short list of authors whose experience, sensitivity, and skill enable them to share wisdom with those among us who would understand.

Parameters

*What It Is Like to Go to War* is already considered by many a modern classic. . . . The former Marine has three main goals in this unflinchingly honest look at what it means to be a soldier in a war: to let potential soldiers understand what to expect, to help veterans better cope with what they've experienced, and to help policy makers truly comprehend what it means when they send combat troops into a war zone.

Bradenton Herald

To say that this book is brilliant is an understatement. Marlantes is the absolute master of taking the psyche of the combat veteran and translating it into words that the civilian or non-veteran can understand. I have read many, many books on war and this is the first time that I've ever read exactly what the combat veteran thinks and feels. Nothing I have ever read before has hit home in my heart like this book.

Gunnery Sergeant Terence D'Alesandro, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, U.S. Marine Corps

Wrenchingly honest. . . . Digging as deeply into his own life as he does into the larger sociological and moral issues, Marlantes presents a riveting, powerfully written account of how, after being taught to kill, he learned to deal with the aftermath.

Publishers Weekly (starred review)

A valiant effort to explain and make peace with wars' awesome consequences for human beings.

Kirkus's

*What It Is Like to Go to War* offers profound insight on how we must prepare our youth who become our warriors for their hard and uncompromising journey through war's hell and back home again.

Vietnam Magazine

With war such a part of contemporary American life, this book is deeply important, as timely and urgent as contemporary on-the-ground reporting from Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune

A sound debunking of anything smacking of the glory of warfare but written with compassion, honesty and wit for men and now women who fight and for all of those who care about them.

St. Louis Dispatch

A slim spiritual guide. . . . Marlantes' book is a sincere plea for better soldiers and veterans.

Seattle Weekly

*What It Is Like to Go to War* is a courageous, noble and intelligent grapple with myth, history, and spirituality that beautifully elevates the cultural conversation on the role of the military in today's world. It is an emotional, honest, and affecting primer for all Americans on war and the national psyche, and we ignore this book at our own peril.

Ed Conklin, Chaucers Books, Santa Barbara