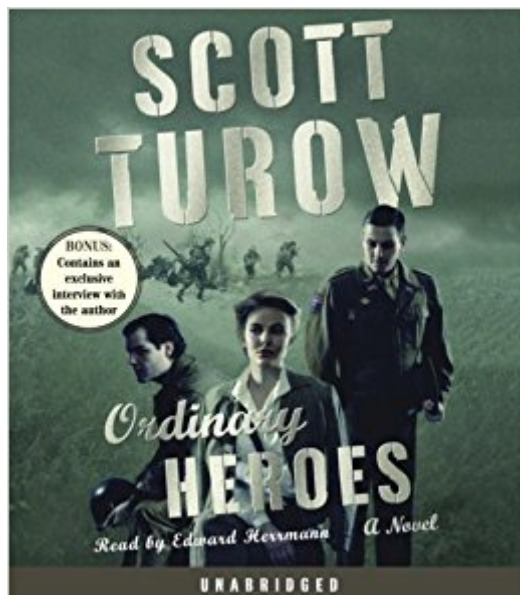


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# Ordinary Heroes



## Synopsis

Stewart Dubinsky knew his father had served in World War II. And he'd been told how David Dubin (as his father had Americanized the name that Stewart later reclaimed) had rescued Stewart's mother from the horror of the Balingen concentration camp. But when he discovers, after his father's death, a packet of wartime letters to a former fiancée, and learns of his father's court-martial and imprisonment, he is plunged into the mystery of his family's secret history and driven to uncover the truth about this enigmatic, distant man who'd always refused to talk about his war. As he pieces together his father's past through military archives, letters, and, finally, notes from a memoir his father wrote while in prison, secretly preserved by the officer who defended him, Stewart starts to assemble a dramatic and baffling chain of events. He learns how Dubin, a JAG lawyer attached to Patton's Third Army and desperate for combat experience, got more than he bargained for when he was ordered to arrest Robert Martin, a wayward OSS officer who, despite his spectacular bravery with the French Resistance, appeared to be acting on orders other than his commanders'. In pursuit of Martin, Dubin and his sergeant are parachuted into Bastogne just as the Battle of the Bulge reaches its apex. Pressed into the leadership of a desperately depleted rifle company, the men are forced to abandon their quest for Martin and his fiery, maddeningly elusive comrade, Gita, as they fight for their lives through carnage and chaos, the likes of which Dubin could never have imagined. In reconstructing the terrible events and agonizing choices his father faced on the battlefield, in the courtroom, and in love, Stewart gains a closer understanding of his past, of his father's character, and of the brutal nature of war itself. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. When retired newspaperman Stewart Dubinsky (last seen in 1987's *Presumed Innocent*) discovers letters his deceased father wrote during his tour of duty in WWII, a host of family secrets come to light. In Turow's ambitious, fascinating page-turner, a "ferocious curiosity" compels the divorced Dubinsky to study his "remote, circumspect" father's papers, which include love letters written to a fiancée the family had never heard of, and a lengthy manuscript, which his father wrote in prison and which includes the shocking disclosure of his father's court-martial for assisting in the escape of OSS officer Robert Martin, a suspected spy. The manuscript, hidden from everyone but the attorney defending him, tells of Capt. David Dubin's investigation into Martin's activities and of both men's entanglements with fierce, secretive comrade Gita Lodz. From optimistic soldier to disenchanted veteran, Dubin—who, via the manuscript, becomes the book's de facto narrator—describes the years of violence he endured and of a love triangle that exacted a heavy emotional toll. Dubinsky's investigations prove revelatory at first, and life-altering at last. Turow makes the leap from courtroom to battlefield effortlessly. (Nov. 1) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Retired reporter Stewart Dubinsky last made an appearance in *Presumed Innocent* (1987). Here, the self-lacerating Dubinsky delves deep into his family's wartime history; one loosely based on Turow's father's experiences. For critics, the question is whether a legal-thriller writer can succeed in another genre; and the answers vary. Out of the courtroom, Turow remains an effective storyteller whose characters (Gita in particular) and details of war create immediacy and intrigue. However, his usual spark seems to be missing. A few critics faulted the novel for introducing too much history, too many mysteries, and too many themes; from war to love to family secrets. In the end, the personal dramas that characterize Turow's best works carry this story-within-a-story, too. Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The secret life Of David Dubin, a JAG officer during World War II is revealed to his son Stewart shortly after his death. This revelation was made while his son was going through his father's personal belongings. Letters hidden away in a closet were discovered. It was revealed that his father had been having a love affair with another woman. And if that wasn't enough, he had also been recommended for a court-martial. Stewart is determined to learn everything he can about the

father he never really knew. Arduously, his father's life during the war is put back together, piece-by-piece. What he ultimately learns is earth-shattering. His feelings about his father have forever changed. The author goes to great lengths to describe many of the horrific events that occurred during one of the darkest times of our nation's history. At times, the grisly facts of war and human suffering were shown to be exceedingly graphic. Sadly, we come to witness the descent of someone's life as a result of the ravages of war. The story progressed from chapter to chapter. From beginning to end, I was driven to read on.

There is no exaggeration when I state that this is my new favorite book. When I read the synopsis of this story, I realized that it did not follow the same court room theme like most of Scott Turow's books. I hate court house dramas. THIS story though was far from Turow's norm. We follow Stewart Dubinsky as he discovers that his father, David Dubin, was not the bland old man he thought he was. As Stewart is rummaging through his father's things following his death, he notices letters written to his father's former fiancée in World War II. Stewart also discovers that his father was court marshaled and imprisoned. While imprisoned, his father wrote his memoirs of the war which comes into Stewart's possession. While reading the memoirs, Stewart contacts people associated with his father to uncover the truth about him. As Stewart reads into the memoirs he finds that his father fought in many battles against the Axis powers and was part of a covert operation searching for a spy known as Robert Martin. I really enjoyed this book because it showed not only Stewart's beliefs changing about this father, but also the changes of his father from the beginning of the journal to the end. I found myself relating to Stewart and the situations of his father as I am in the military and never having the best relationship with my father myself. I highly...HIGHLY... recommend this book as you will discover something about yourself, war, and possibly even the things people hide from us to protect our innocence.

Scott Turow is a masterful writer. This was a work of fiction that was written as if it were a son's memoir of his father, and a publishing of his father's account of his war experiences in France and Germany during World War II. The characters were perfectly developed, and I had to keep reminding myself that this was fiction, and not a true account of a man's experience in the terror of war. There were twists and turns and the story never lagged. I felt like this was an accurate portrayal of life on the battlefield, and what it must have been like at the Battle of the Bulge. Whether you're a war buff, or a Scott Turow fan, you won't be disappointed in this novel.

I enjoyed the story crafted so well by Scott Turow. It will grab your attention as well, I am comfortable predicting. However, the large number of typos in the electronic version we downloaded became a constant source of irritation. Each (and there are many) stopped the narrative in its tracks. Perhaps the publisher or the editor was enamored with whatever spell checking software was used. Many of the errors were words that were spelled correctly but not in context. A moderately proficient proof reader/editor would have easily spoofed and corrected these. I recommend that you enjoy Mr. Turow's writing talents which shine despite the lack of skill (I hesitate to call it laziness) of the proofreader/editor. Pat Murphy

A master storyteller has written a gem of a WWII story. It has been described in other reviews as "tedious in the middle." Well, war is, indeed tedious (form follows function) and I think Scott Turow does a great job using an officer whose various duties carry him all over Europe, to illuminate the boredom and the fear and ferocity of war in general, and of several of the big events in WWII. He brings in the Battle of the Bulge, and through his alter-ego jeep driver, Biddy, the D-Day invasion and the degradation of the freeing of the camps. Yes, there are parts that are not exactly accurate, but this is a novel, and the liberties Mr. Turow takes, in my mind, do not detract at all from the value of this marvelous and well-researched book. I personally loved Biddy- his wisdom and good sense; a terrific character. This wonderful book should change the mind of anyone who thinks that war is glamorous.

I am enjoying the book. Love Scott Turow. However, the publisher should be ashamed of the typos or rather incorrect auto-correct contained within it. These errors escalate once you are past 60% reading (kindle version). So much for proofreading; should have been a deeply discounted offering as this book has been out for quite some time now.

The topic was exciting and very interesting! Enjoyed following the main character and all the exploits! The only reason I gave it 3 stars was the fact that there were too many words which didn't fit that were not caught by the author or the proof reader and I would think an author of this stature would not stand for these unless they wanted to do it on purpose! These errors took away from my giving it a 5 star rating!!

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