



Basher Five-Two

Scott O'Grady

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U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down in his F-16 over Bosnia while helping to keep the peace. The plane exploded, and Captain O'Grady fell 5 miles to the ground below. In exciting detail, Captain O'Grady tells how he evaded capture and how, with little water and no food, he was able to survive on his own in enemy territory.

Basher Five-Two Details

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Author : Scott O'Grady

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From Reader Review Basher Five-Two for online ebook

A.E. Fuhrman says

What a story! Basher Five-Two follows the true events of Captain Scott O'Grady's ordeal being shot down over Bosnian airspace during a peace keeping mission and the ensuing days leading up to and following his historic rescue. The story is all the more powerful because it is told in the first person by this military hero himself, allowing the reader to see and feel exactly what the survivor endured, including all of the feelings of desperation, courage, and enduring faith--both in God and in his fellow comrades.

I especially appreciate that this book is written for youth. Very few military narratives of the late 20th century are available for children. If read aloud, children as young as second or third grade can appreciate this story, but the writing is aimed at the middle grades (my ten-year-old son loved it). That being said, the story is incredible and an interesting read for teens and adults as well. I highly recommend it.

Jeremy Smalley says

I liked this book a lot because it was just amazing. All of the little details that the author talks about and how the rescue mission was a COMPLETE success is awesome. After reading it I realized that this is where the movie "Behind Enemy Lines" Spawned from.

Angie says

Works on a "military true story with some detail but still appropriate for the elementary crowd" (though they won't have a clue about Bosnia) but the writing is not the best. Lags in more than one place.

Alan Chen says

A very good book, but it's definitely shown to be geared for kids. There is a definite and jarring disconnect between the passages that were originally written by the pilot, and those that have been dumbed-down by the coauthor to make the book readable for kids. The parts meant for kids are really meant for kids, because it's here where O'Grady keeps coming across as one who is always in control, always calm, supremely prepared, and where everything in the world falls into a clear dichotomy of good/bad, safe/dangerous, cautious/foolish. Through a combination of goal of wanting to fly from early in life, to having his goals get derailed, and finally crawling back and worming his way into the Air Force, O'Grady presents himself as the very antithesis of the stereotypical and cocky fighter jock portrayed in "Top Gun." In fact, he comes across as a reformed stereotypical and cocky fighter jock, who drove more carefully after getting in a series of car accidents.

When O'Grady is left to speak for himself, the book quickly becomes more technical (when appropriate) and believable as he takes the reader through his emotional roller-coaster. In these few parts, O'Grady stops coming across as a recruiting poster for military conduct and more as a tired, scared and desperate pilot in enemy territory, relying on his training, wits and God to keep him self and bring him home. Additionally, these parts produce the best writing, as when O'Grady notes those buried at the Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier not only gave their lives for their country but also their identities, and for asking nothing while giving everything, theirs was the highest honor. A copy of the US Military's rules when conduct when captured and the poem "High Flight" (made famous when Reagan quoted it, saying those on the shuttle Challenger "slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God") caps the experience.

Victoria says

This is the true story of a military pilot who was shot down into enemy territory. It tells how he survived for 6 days with very little food and water, how he avoided the enemy capturing him, how his faith helped him get through it, how his family did not give up hope, and how he was finally rescued. It is a heroic story full of adventure and interesting lessons on survival. My 14 year old son and I both really enjoyed it.

Courtney Marie W says

This book was amazing!!! [Again, a military theme] =)

This guy tries to survive his plane being shot out of the sky, being a POW and eating grass for meals. His only company is of a couple of cows. lol

momma.hailey says

This is part of my 10 year old daughters History/Literature curriculum (Veritas Press 1815 to Present). I'm reading through the books with her for discussion.

Admittedly I wasn't looking forward to reading this. However, I was pleasantly surprised. I appreciated the explanations of military and aviation lingo in layman's terms. Now you could ask me about F-16's and military survival skills and I might be able to have a decent conversation!

Lastly, I appreciated the book length (a smaller chapter book around 100 pages), which allowed me to read it in one sitting rather quickly. And, the book "stuck to the facts" which was nice. It seems like many books this style are flowered with unnecessary information.

Good read!

Michael Preston says

Imagine you have just been shot down and you have burns on your neck and face, but you have to keep moving the enemy's on there way, you have to evade them at all cost, to return with honor is your goal. This happened to captain Scott O'Grady, in his autobiography Basher Five-Two. This novel perfectly shows how language can change. At first he is this big hot shot F-16 pilots next he is shown as weak and vulnerable. It also shows conflict, by him hiding from the enemy who is looking for him. It also shows how the theme

changes from him being a little kid with a dream of speed and then he is grown up in a vulnerable position. This is a great autobiography moving more like a story than someone's life.

Sharon says

I'm a little older than the target audience for this book, but I was interested in his story. I'm impressed with his survival skills and I agree with him, that God brought him through that ordeal.

Dawn Roberts says

Short, somewhat dumbed-down narrative of Scott O'Grady's survival and rescue after being shot down over Bosnia in 1995. Full of patriotic sentiment and the importance of working hard to succeed when you aren't a superstar. OK for upper elementary reading. Interesting perspective after reading Maybury's book about World War II and America's role as global cops. Is it worth American lives to interfere in another country's civil war?

Erica Honing says

Basher Five-Two by Scott O'Grady was an okay book. It wasn't on of my favorites but it was an incredible story. On thing is, is that there was a ton of vocabulary I wasn't to sure with. This book is a true story about U.S Captain Scott O'Grady. He was shot down in his F-16 over Bosnia while helping to keep peace. His plane exploded, but he parachuted out 5 miles from the ground. In his amazing story he tells how he survived hiding, with barley water and no food, in six days, in enemy's land. I would recommend this book to anyone that likes aircraft, airplanes, and the Air Force. I also feel this book was mainly for boys. Overall this book was OK, and very inspirational.

Chris says

I remember hearing of this incident on the news when it happened and that O'Grady was eventually rescued going into the book. Not as much action as I would expect from a work of fiction, but knowing this is a true story kept me glued to the pages. Very entertaining for a true story.

Ali C says

I read this book in just an hour.. it was excellent. He goes into great detail describing his F16.. Although not too much detail about the time he spent in hiding, I felt like I had more of his biography than anything. But I would definitely love to read his other book!

Marija says

This book is about an American soldier whose plane crashes in Bosnia during the Bosnian war. He must travel out of the forest to survive.

Antony: My parents escaped from the Bosnian war, so I've heard the 'refugee' stories, but I've never heard any stories from an actual soldier during that time. It was an interesting point of view, and an interesting subject.

Renita says

This book has fascinated class after class of students. I love read this one to them because it has such a realistic feel. Most students shy away from autobiographies, but this one grabs them hook, line and sinker!
