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Metal Heads: A Novel by Tom Maremaa

Tom Maremaa

In an army health facility for wounded veterans of the Iraq war, ex-Marine Jeremy Witherspoon, referred to as Spoon via his comrades, is making an attempt to return to phrases together with his life-changing injuries. The clinic focuses on treating "metal heads," people with critical head trauma whose accidents require the insertion of a steel plate. Spoon passes the lengthy hours in mattress buying and selling battle tales along with his fellow sufferers and recounts his complicity as a witness to a brutal crime of warfare in Ramadi, and his coercion in a cover-up whilst threatened via a personal contractor who is going via the nickname Skank. while the wounded Skank seems on the hospital, he Metal Heads: A Novel bluntly threatens Spoon to maintain his mouth close approximately Ramadi. One by way of one, Spoon's associates at the ward start loss of life in mysterious ways, and he understands he needs to defeat Skank or die himself. This powerful, heartbreaking novel concerning the aftermath of battle creates a bright global populated through extraordinary characters who fight with being outcasts and victims. The younger narrator mingles his quirky slang concerning the warfare with eloquent and sometimes lyrical emotion.

From Booklist*Starred Review* the main tragic and enduring legacy of the Iraq conflict could be the millions of vets anguish annoying mind harm (TBI). steel Heads is a relocating and deeply unsettling novel of a sanatorium packed with such vets in California. The book's narrator, Marine Lance Corporal Jeremy "Spoon" Witherspoon, is typical: he's misplaced an eye fixed and a hand and has a metal plate in his head. He's dosed with an ever-changing cocktail of substances and will or won't have a gentle seize of reality. He describes a health facility surrounded by means of razor wire, full of video-surveillance cameras, and policed by means of inner most contractors. Few of the sufferers have any family, enjoyed ones, or perhaps visitors. Spoon tricks that sufferers are being experimented on and believes they'll quickly be coming for him. on the related time, he fears the sanatorium can be closed for loss of funds, and he'll be homeless. while he and fellow sufferers ask once they could be released, they're told, "Don't even take into consideration it," which they translate into the notice unthinkable, which, in turn, turns into their ironic mantra, the Catch-22 for a brand new iteration of warriors. the guts of this dark, Kafkaesque story lies in uncertainty. TBI, like war, wreaks havoc at the brain, and Maremaa's characters may perhaps all be delusional. Or not. a robust and heartbreaking novel.

--Thomas Gaughan "Metal Heads" used to be nominated through the yankee Library organization (ALA) as one of Metal Heads: A Novel many most sensible 25 "Notable Books of 2009" "[METAL HEADS] is a heartbreaking, well-paced tale of an injured Iraqi veteran and the terrors of warfare . . . instructed within the vernacular of the narrator, entire with misspelling and lingo of highway youth, the narrative tells the tale of all these touched by way of the warfare . . . This moving, on your face paintings packs an emotional punch."—Publishers Weekly

The Catch-22 for Iraqi veterans By R. Kyle (USA) (AMAZON best 500 REVIEWER) I first turned accustomed to Jeremy Witherspoon aka "Spoon" within the Amazon step forward Novel Awards--ABNA 2008 contest. The excerpt I learn used to be probably the most haunting of that contest. I was hoping a few shrewd permanent writer would select Tom Maremaa's paintings for publication. due to Kunati Press, I acquired to learn the remainder of the story. Spoon's a steel

head, during this parlance, a brain-injured returning Iraqi soldier. he is constrained to a veteran's care medical institution in California with a staff of different equally injured males and women. in contrast to the conventional term, Spoon cannot deal with any loud noises, together with Metal Heads: A Novel music. Worse, he is misplaced a watch and a hand in carrier to his country. Spoon's facing his accidents with drug-infused equanimity. What haunts him isn't telling what Skank, a personal contractor, did in a village in Iraq. concerns cross from undesirable to worse while Skank arrives and Spoon realizes what's being performed to his fellow soldiers. whereas this story's in keeping with fiction, Maremaa had broad interplay with 'metal heads' earlier than he wrote his novel. Spoon is rendered with a depth, heart, and compassion that speaks of the author's hindrance for those valiant survivors. I learn an excellent a part of "Metal Heads" with my eyes blurring from tears. this can be an outstanding and robust story, that is worth your time. November 2009 The Language of warBy Patricia Hester "Pat" (Olympic Peninsula, WA USA) simply as each creates a language designated onto itself, so does each war. during this modern-day examine the flotsam and jetsam of the Iraqi conflict, the writer takes us to a Cuckoo's nest of head injured vets who're introduced onto the level screaming in protest in their changeling status. With accidents obvious and invisible, none seeks salvation extra fervently than Spoon whose maximum worry is attractiveness through an individual who witnessed his now not so bold activities at the battlefield. a personality mix that incorporates all ranks -- officers, civilians, enlisted , and employed mercenaries -- presents us with an excellent examine the even hand destiny makes use of to special its revenge at the unaware. via their distress and pain, all are united in a fashion these folks who've no longer skilled struggle can by no means understand. I enjoyed the author's use of language Metal Heads: A Novel or even realized a brand new word, "mesmerotic". And that, I suppose, is the inevitable consequence of this book. a brand new test with language, pain, fear, and desire of redemption to categorise a brand new batch of endlessly soldiers. Our present struggle is exclusive in that we're all witnesses to the "viddy". this can be a booklet choked with excellent writing, personality development, and armor-piercing insights.

Metal Heads A Novel

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