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The Surge

A Novel by Adam Kovac Spring 2025 | 188 pages | Tortoise Books Originally published January 29, 2019 by Engine Books

WITH ONLY FIVE WEEKS LEFT IN HIS DEPLOYMENT, CHANDLER AND HIS TEAM ARE ASSIGNED A MISSION.

His men look forward to the action, but Chandler isn't so sure they're all going to make it back alive.

WHY THIS BOOK?

- Written by a US Army veteran who served more than a decade in Iraq, Afghanistan, Panama, and Haiti
- An unvarnished war novel about a wounded veteran redeployed to Iraq and assigned to lead underprepared National Guardsmen during the 2007 troop surge, pitched as *The Thin Line* meets *Full Metal Jacket*
- Set after President Bush ordered 20,000 additional soldiers to Iraq to impose stability and ensure that Iraq remain a bulwark against terror
- Showcases the complexity of modern military service and the struggle of soldiers to connect
- Hauntingly reveals the cost of meeting military objectives which, while politically beneficial, are paid for with human lives

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adam Kovac served more than a decade in the US Army infantry, with deployments to Panama, Haiti, Iraq, and Afghanistan. A former journalist, he's also covered crime and court beats for newspapers in Indiana, Florida, and Illinois. Kovac earned his MFA in creative writing from Northwestern University.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"The best of the bunch ... The Surge is a ready-made classic." —David Abrams, author of Brave Deeds and Fobbit

"In this remarkable debut, Adam Kovac has not only produced a vivid and compelling story about the reality of war, he's somehow conjured an allegory for where we are in American history." —Naeem Murr, author of *The Perfect Man*

"... A novel rare in its insight and power. There is no trumpeting of conflict or sacrifice here, no outlandish satire. Instead, Kovac faces the boredom and horror, the drudgery of a forever war, with a steady hand and gaze. Readers will come away from this book shaken, mad, stunned." —Eric Shonkwiler, author of *Above All Men* and *Moon Up, Past Full*