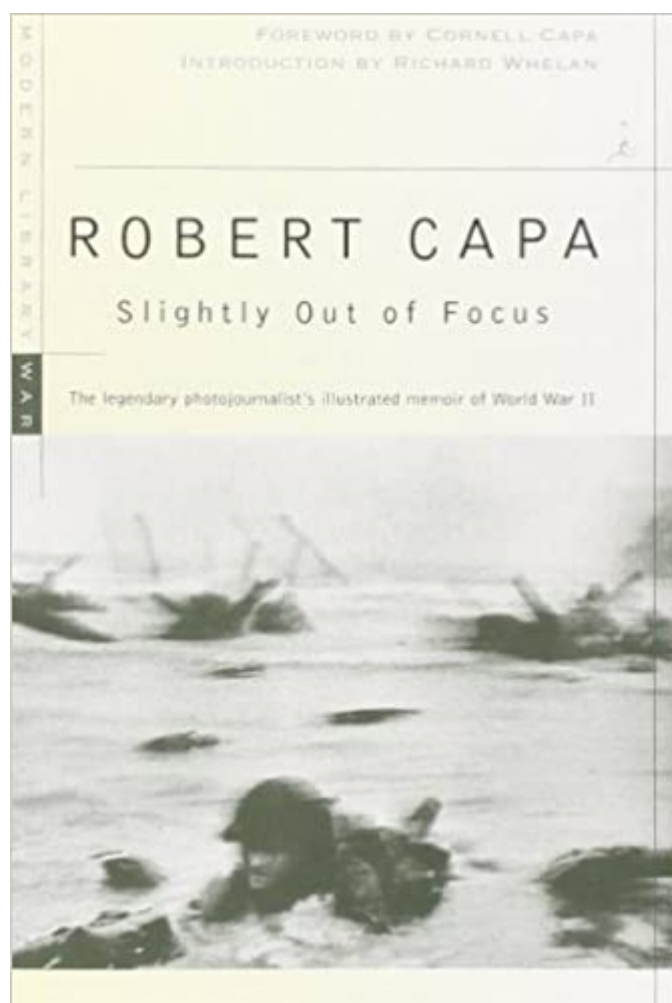


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Slightly Out Of Focus: The Legendary Photojournalist's Illustrated Memoir Of World War II (Modern Library War)



Synopsis

In 1942, a dashing young man who liked nothing so much as a heated game of poker, a good bottle of scotch, and the company of a pretty girl hopped a merchant ship to England. He was Robert Capa, the brilliant and daring photojournalist, and Collier's magazine had put him on assignment to photograph the war raging in Europe. In these pages, Capa recounts his terrifying journey through the darkest battles of World War II and shares his memories of the men and women of the Allied forces who befriended, amused, and captivated him along the way. His photographs are masterpieces -- John G. Morris, Magnum Photos' first executive editor, called Capa "the century's greatest battlefield photographer" -- and his writing is by turns riotously funny and deeply moving. From Sicily to London, Normandy to Algiers, Capa experienced some of the most trying conditions imaginable, yet his compassion and wit shine on every page of this book. Charming and profound, *Slightly Out of Focus* is a marvelous memoir told in words and pictures by an extraordinary man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Capa, the great photojournalist who is perhaps best known for his searing images of WWII, infused his autobiography with the same brio and warmth that he expressed in his now classic photographs. "Victory was pleasant and exhausting," the Hungarian-born American notes after the Allies' capture of Tunisia. "During the day in the streets ... we were kissed by hundreds of old women.... We had enough liquor from a captured Gestapo warehouse to keep our singing throats

from drying out." Always on the frontlines (he was killed in 1954 in what would later become known as the Vietnam War), Capa went ahead with the parachute invasion of Sicily even though he had been fired from *Colliers Weekly*--flying in with a squadron of young soldiers he refers to as "boys." When Capa's turn came to jump, he forgot to count "one thousand, two thousand, three thousand" before pulling his cord, instead murmuring, "Fired photographer jumps." "I felt a jerk on my shoulder and my chute was open. 'Fired photographer floats,' I said happily to myself." Stuck dangling in a tree all night, he didn't dare call out for help. "With my Hungarian accent, I stood an equal chance of being shot by either side." Writing or clicking the shutter, Capa was the perfect conduit for his time, with the war's almost casual heroism, palpable danger, and the importance of every moment of life--whether lying in a foxhole or shopping in London at Dunhill's for a silver flask. *Slightly Out of Focus* is dotted with his pictures, including the most famous ones of the D day invasion. "I am a gambler," Capa writes. "I decided to go in with Company E in the first wave." Capa's priceless, self-deprecating text tells much, and his photographs show the rest: how thin the Europeans were in Italy, France, and Germany, for example, trim as saplings from years of deprivation. And then there's Capa's famous series showing the plump Frenchwoman, a German collaborator, marked for shame by her shaved head, hurrying past her taunting neighbors, all of whom are gaunt by comparison. This is a war book, of course, but it will transfix documentary photographers. And this Modern Library edition, which links Capa with such great writers as Ernest Hemingway (whom he photographed wounded), confers suitable honor on his earthy genius. --Peggy Moorman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Renowned photographer Capa first published this memoir in 1947, recalling his time covering World War II between 1942 and 1945. His firsthand reminiscences are buttressed with his signature photographs. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This gets five stars from the history it provides if nothing else. Written by the only photographer to come ashore in the first waves of landing craft to bloody Omaha Beach, it is an account of WWII from the pen of one of the most significant war photographers who ever lived. He knew Ernie Pyle, worked with him, not only slogged along with the poor dogface foot soldiers but went with the paratroopers as they parachuted into France after. A personal account not to be missed.

Capa would have turned 100 last year and this is his only book! he died in Indochine (1954) after

stepping on a landmine - he was covering the war! To this day he is still regarded as the best war photographer of all times! He covered politics in Germany, Trotsky in Finland, the Spanish Civil War (where he lost his dear love Gerda Taro - writer/photographer killed by a War Tank that ran over her) and WWII! This autobiographical book was supposed to be the plot of a movie made in Hollywood. It is just a great book about some of his best pictures.

It has been written that Capa intended the work as a film script, and it reads that way...but then, Capa never pretended to be a reporter, the work is his version of what happened, and if aspects are embellished, that's the way he intended it, most biographers state he was fairly loose with the truth and was prone to embellishing aspects of his work.

Not your normal book about WWII. It is interesting, historical, sad, funny and well written. The war from a combat photographer's perspective.

Bob Capa is one of my favorite photographers. The book is quite interesting and enjoyable to read.

A quick read (even for me) and a lot of fun. This would be a great book to read while traveling or just to learn more about a great story-teller.

My dad really enjoyed this book. It's a great one! So happy to have found it. It was fabulously written, with some great, rare photos with a keen look into what made Robert the artist he was.

Great book.

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