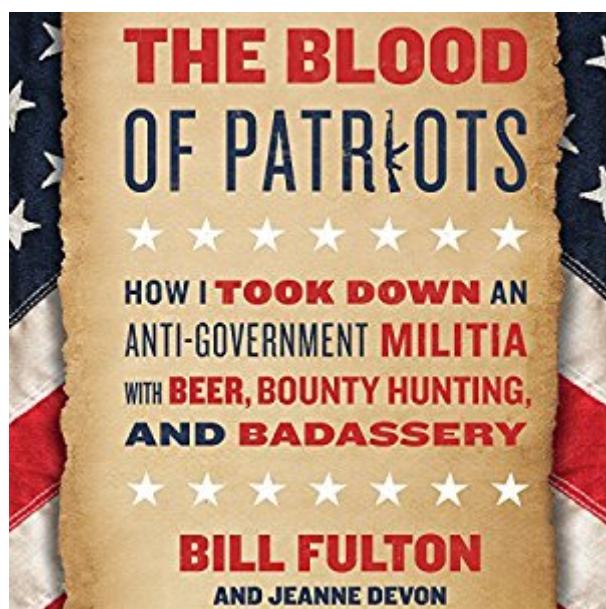


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The Blood Of Patriots: How I Took Down An Anti-Government Militia With Beer, Bounty Hunting, And Badassery



Synopsis

For Bill Fulton, being a soldier was his identity. He was called to protect and serve. So when the army wanted to send him to Alaska, he went - they had never steered him wrong, after all. After an involuntary medical discharge, Fulton was adrift until he started a military surplus store in Anchorage, where he also took on fugitive recovery missions. He was back on his feet, working with other badasses and misfits he considered brothers. He took pride in his business, with a wife and daughters at home. His life was happy and full. But when a customer revealed he planned to attack a military recruiting station, Fulton had to make a choice: turn a blind eye and hope for the best or risk his safety, his reputation, and his business by establishing contact with his customers' archnemesis: the FBI. He chose the latter, and his life changed forever. Fulton would soon find himself tumbling down a rabbit hole, learning of a militia movement afoot called "sovereign citizens" who believe themselves to be above the law. The FBI classifies this domestic terrorist group as the number one threat to law enforcement in the country. Set against the vast, rugged, and sometimes lawless backdrop of Alaska, *The Blood of Patriots* is the story of an ideology gone bloody in the distorted belief that murder is patriotic. It is the true story of how Fulton wrestled his demons and became an undercover confidential informant for the FBI, helping to bring down a militia whose charismatic leader was plotting to kill federal judges and their families and law enforcement officers. Fulton and *The Mudflats'* Jeanne Devon will take you on a journey through the dark and weirdly humorous life on the Last Frontier while exploring questions of patriotism, the meaning of the Second Amendment, and the legitimate exercise of governmental power. *The Blood of Patriots* reveals the seamy underbelly of our nation's militia movements and reminds us of the true nature of patriotism.

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Customer Reviews

The Blood of Patriots is the tale of an ex-military man living in Alaska when opportunity to serve his country comes knocking. At first, Fulton tries to stay out of the local nonsense - avoiding the fringe-types that group in Alaska and/or around survival-type stores - sticking to his business as a military surplus store owner and bounty hunter. At first, the story starts out following Fulton's life to Alaska as he sets up shop and gives himself and fellow vets a new sense of purpose. There are a few anecdotes about bounty hunting adventures, which are highly entertaining. He also tries his hand at politics, leading to some interactions that are positively shocking. Then, one day, Fulton decides to tip the FBI to a potentially dangerous individual that stops into his store, and from there his life takes a turn when he is asked to go even further into the fray as an undercover operative. Choosing to serve is country once again, Fulton makes it his mission to take down the dangerous militia before people start getting hurt. This book is fast-paced and covers a range of situations with humor and heart. Fulton manages to dance around politics - he makes clear his own opinions, but he isn't preaching - so it appeals to audiences from conservative to liberal, because it is not just a story about anti-government militia, but about what it means to be a true patriot. I enjoyed this book immensely, found my eyes opened at times, and rolling at others (Fulton may avoid politics, but there are some political characters that are quite polarizing in this book). Ultimately, I found myself challenged, entertained and engrossed - what more could you ask for?

What a thrill ride! The Blood of Patriots is a page-turner that never lets up. It's the true inside account of a world few of us see, even though it surrounds many of us. Alaska is a land of extremes: extreme environments, extreme politics, and extreme people. Bill Fulton embodied and thrived on the Alaskan extremes, but even he was shocked with just how far things can go. Some of the escapades of Bill Fulton and his rag-tag band of bounty hunters feel a bit larger than life; the bravado perhaps a bit thick at points. But what else should we expect from a book with a subtitle such as this, and wasn't that what we were looking for when we picked it up? I believed I had followed the events of the story fairly closely as they unfolded, but The Blood of Patriots peels the curtain back and reveals the shocking details of clandestine and deadly activities that were playing out right under our noses. Political power struggles packaged with a paranoid few's secret plans to spark a violent revolution make this book impossible to put down.

The timing on this book is perfect to fit into todays events with al-right antigovernment types from the Oval office to the cattle ranches trying to undo America as we know it. This is the story of some of those people and their misguided quest to fight the "government", ultimately it's not about them. They are just violent anti-government types lashing out. It's hard to believe this is going on in America. The detail and in depth coverage that the authors were able to extract is amazing. The complexity of the story would make a great movie and is almost to much to believe. Being that I live in Alaska, was in Drop Zone when the story broke and know of some participants as well as following the complicated story in the news; I know it's all true. Read it, it's worth it.

Unadorned and unapologetic, like the state it takes place, this isn't just the telling of a story. It takes you by the hand and takes you places you thought you knew and to places you couldn't begin to imagine. And you want to go. And you're glad that others have gone there for you. You don't think you have to read this book. But you do.

The Department of Homeland Security quote included at the start of Chapter 23 Flash Bang says it all, "If you see something, say something." Bill Fulton, former Army guy turned military surplus store owner/bounty hunter/veteran supporter did exactly that, and it cost him a lot (p 11), "I don't know what I would have done if I'd known then that when I eventually left Alaska, it would be against my will, that I'd no longer be a soldier, that I'd have risked my life, lost my livelihood and my home, deceived my men and my family, jeopardized my marriage and risked everything I had that was dear to me." Based on the "blurb" I thought that the book would be primarily about "How I Took Down an Anti-Government Militia," but that part of the story doesn't start until Chapter 11. Up until that "point" he sets things up for readers in what reads like a "memoir" of "badassery" that goes something like this: Bill Fulton was born to be in the military, joins up as early as he is "able" and has a "badass-ish" career, but it takes a ÂfÂ¢Â ªÃ ªÃ "tollÃfÂ¢Â ªÃ ªÃ • on his body that results in the Army "medically" discharging him. He moves to Alaska, opens a military surplus store called "Drop Zone" and hires military buddies as well as veterans who are down on their luck to help him run the store. These guys use weapons (it is "Alaska," after all) to track down "fugitives" and turn them over to the "authorities." In the first 100 pages of the book, he recounts a number of these "take downs," which are very entertaining as are the stories of his employees, who tend to break Fulton's list of rules, especially the one that says, "Keep your wives and/or girlfriends away from the shop and the unit--somebody other than you will [&%\$#] them." My favorite

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“anecdoteÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• takes place in Chapter 3 Bears and Danes. The "Grizzly for sure" line made me lol. A few relevant facts: Alaska has (p 7) "a large military presence in the state, with nine bases." (p 33) "The Fairbanks area has the highest percentage of gun ownership in the nation at 59.1 percent." (p 53) "One out of every ten Alaskans is a veteran." (p 57) "There was a strong militia presence in the state." (p 55) "Your parents and your teachers have told you to be nice. Your country has asked you to facilitate indiscriminate mass killing." Just past page 100 begins the story of how he became an informant for the US government because when he

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“saw somethingÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• (potentially dangerous) he decided to
ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“say somethingÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• (to the authorities). He (with help from author

Jeanne Devon) writes the story so that it sounds "authentic." I can imagine that he writes exactly the way he talks, with lots of swagger, smack talk, swear words, and sexual references like "banana sling." Ms. Devon not only does an excellent job of helping Fulton put together a cohesive story using what has become a ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“sort ofÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• standard format (clever chapter title, relevant quote, super short chapter, repeat) but has a bit of her own

ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“badassery,ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• as a stick figure sketch artist (Pp 246-248) during the trial. Best of the book: written in whatever style would be the opposite of ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“chick litÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• which feels authentic for the type of guy Fulton seems to be; entertaining story about events IÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å„cd never heard of before (the trial of members of an anti-government militia and events that led to charges being filed in the first place); and the memoir provides a lot of interesting information about Alaska, the military and militias. Worst: distractingly excessive use of ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å“quotes,ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Å• the annoyingness of which I tried to illustrate in my review. Better: What It Is Like To Go To War by Karl Marlantes, Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut and The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara.

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