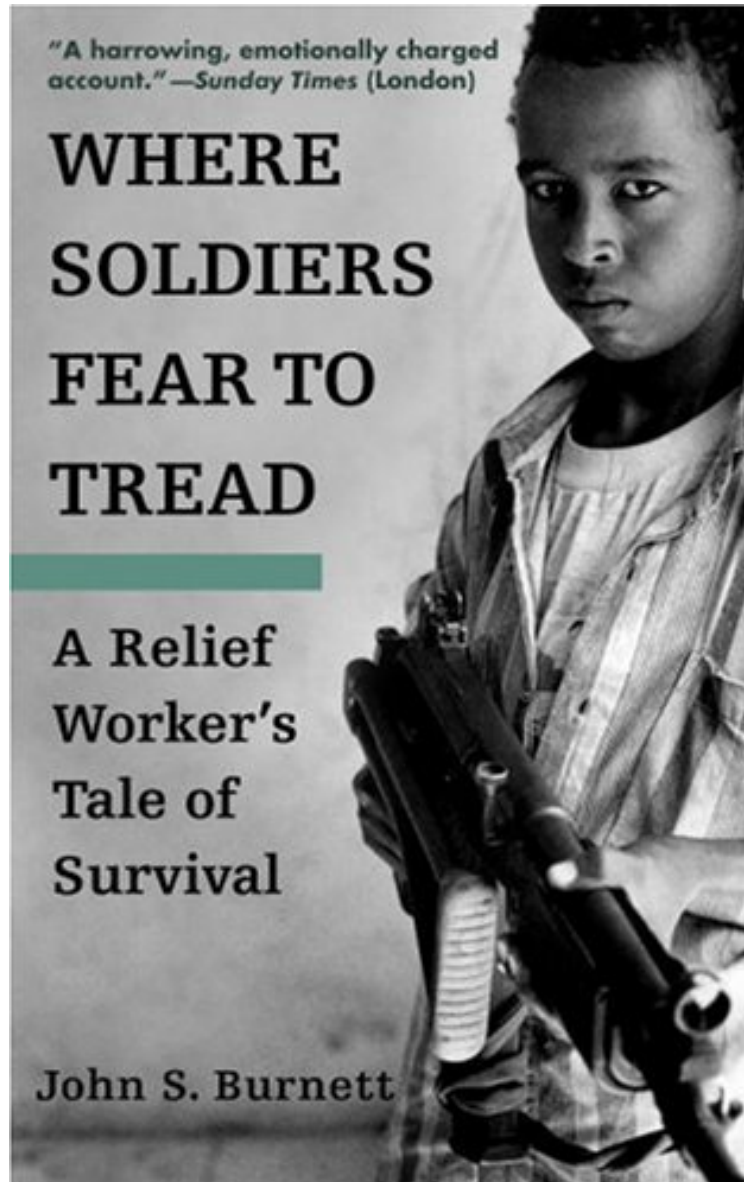


[Ebook free] Where Soldiers Fear to Tread: A Relief Worker's Tale of Survival

## Where Soldiers Fear to Tread: A Relief Worker's Tale of Survival

*John Burnett*

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**John Burnett : Where Soldiers Fear to Tread: A Relief Worker's Tale of Survival** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where Soldiers Fear to Tread: A Relief Worker's Tale of Survival:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Somalia and the UN By Richard Scott Mr. Burnett gives us an "in the trenches" view of Somalia. This is Anarchy 101 up close and personal. The dysfunction and bumbling bureaucracies of the UN and other Relief Agencies are disappointing. I was amazed and appalled as his experiences unfolded. I hope

the situations have improved in Somalia AND the relief agencies, but that is probably wishful thinking. I found this book to be very informative. Things haven't changed much since "The Ugly American". The plight of Relief Workers needs remediation.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It will convince you not to work for the UNBy Wayne StanIt was a fairly good read, I enjoyed it. Anyone thinking of working for any relief agency should read it. It's an eye opener.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The dark side of humanitarian workBy Jesse S. WalkerThis book is a perfect summary of the dark side of humanitarian work. Unequipped, unprepared contract workers who are unprotected and essentially thrown to the wolves.The author answers an fax looking for boat drivers and the only preparation he's given is a night at a bar and told to watch out for displaced wildlife. From the moment he steps off the plane it goes downhill. Even a good deed ends in tragedy because he doesn't understand the population he's trying to help.Mostly though this is an indictment of the conditions the relief workers have to deal with because different UN agencies and Non governmental organizations all want to show how much they are "helping". The individuals may do good things but the organizations use it to play politics.

ldquo;There is going to be a shooting here and it is a toss-up who is going to get the boysquo;s first round. The soldier, about ten years old, is jamming the barrel of his gun hard against my driversquo;s face, and unless the kid decides to go for me, the relief worker, my driver is going to get his head blown off.rdquo;WHERE SOLDIERS FEAR TO TREADJohn Burnett survived this ordeal and others during his service as a relief worker in Somalia. But many did not. In this gripping firsthand account, Burnett shares his experiences during the flood relief operations of 1997 to 1998. Ravaged by monsoons, starvation, and feuding warlords, Somalia continues to be one of the most dangerous places on earth. Both a personal story and a broader tale of war, the politics of aid, and the horrifying reality of child-soldiers, his chronicle represents the astonishing challenges faced by humanitarian workers across the globe. There are currently thousands of civilian workers serving in over one hundred nations. Today, they are as likely to be killed in the line of duty as are trained soldiers. In the past five years alone, more UN aid workers have been killed than peacekeepers. When Burnett joined the World Food Program, he was told their mission would be safe, their help welcomedndash;and they would be pulled out if bullets started to fly. When he arrived in Somalia, Burnett found a nation rent by a decade of anarchy, a people wary of foreign intervention, and a discomfiting uncertainty that the UN would remember hersquo;d been sent there at all. From Burnett's young Somali driver to the armed civilians, warlords, and colleagues he would never see again, this unforgettable memoir delves into the complexity of humanitarian missions and the wonder of everyday people who risk their lives to help others in places too dangerous to send soldiers.ldquo;Where Soldiers Fear to Tread is a rousing adventure story and a troubling morality tale....If yoursquo;ve ever sent 20 bucks off to a relief organization, you owe it to yourself to read this book.rdquo;--Michael Maren, author of *The Road to Hell: The Ravaging Effects of Foreign Aid and International Charity*From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers WeeklyIn 1997, Burnett, apparently bored with his other adventures-which have included working on oil rigs, working on a crab boat in Alaska, skippering a commercial halibut boat, writing for the soap opera *Search for Tomorrow*-signed up to work in Somalia for the World Food Program. In prose as restrained as his trails were horrific, Burnett recounts his narrow escapes and close calls in a flood-ravaged Somalia ruled by rival warlords. His most harrowing adventures occur when he confronts young children carrying guns who fearlessly threaten and kill others. Yet, Burnett does not quite delve into his own fears, or reveal what real lessons he learned from his year in Somalia. His formulaic style ("The air is thick with the smells of dust, smoke, flowers, sweat, and dung") fails to render the tale of one man's struggle to make a difference in the world either memorable or significant. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The narrative sweeps one along hellip; Written like a day-to-day journal, *When Soldiers Fear to Tread* offers many thumbnail sketches of natives and relief workers."mdash;Providence Journal"He understands the mix of altruism, adrenaline, financial reward and companionship that drives many aid workers . . . He sees the way that the various aid agencies (even competing UN agencies) work against each other to gain credit and press exposure. And he learns, through bitter experience, how savage people can be when they are desperate"mdash;London Sunday Times ldquo;"A journey into a heartless darkness. . .(An) affecting, timely and engaging memoir of life at the blunt edge of aid."mdash;Evening Standard, Londonldquo;Burnett's message is simple and it is not new: being an aid worker in the field is dangerous. What makes it different is the clarity and passion with which he delivers it. . . He writes well and convincingly . . . with a minimum of jargon and eye for detail.rdquo;mdash;The Sunday Telegraph, LondonFrom the Hardcover edition.About the AuthorJohn S. Burnett is a former reporter for United Press International. He has written for *National Geographic*, *the Guardian*, and *the New York Times*. He is also the author of *Dangerous Waters: Modern Piracy and Terror on the High Seas*.