

ShortList

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EVERY THURSDAY

RAY OF SUNSHINE

The Jawbone star is Hollywood's happiest hard man



NOTEBOOK

Hear author (and former US soldier) Brian Van Reet talk about new novel *Spoils*



Slaughterhouse-Five, *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, *Catch-22*... there's now a new novel to sit alongside these war-fiction goliaths.

Yes, that's hyperbolic, but we're ready to stand by it. It's *that* good.

Spoils is the debut from former US tank crewman Brian Van Reet. Released on 18 May, it tells the story of three young US soldiers who are captured and held prisoner by radicalised fighters. Focusing on one soldier in particular, 19-year-old tank gunner Cassandra Wigheard, it describes her capture and imprisonment in gripping, relentlessly-grim detail. It also follows Abu al-Hool, one of the mujahideen brotherhood fighters who's grown disillusioned with his cause and is looking to escape to a peaceful life, yet knows this will never be possible.

If this sounds like your kind of thing, book tickets for *ShortList's* Book & Beer Club in collaboration with Jonathan Cape, where we'll be chatting to Van Reet as he makes a rare UK visit on the day of his book's launch.

For just £10, you'll get entry, a beer on arrival and a copy of *Spoils*. The event takes place at Concrete, 56 Shoreditch High St, London E1 at 7pm on 18 May.

Book tickets now at eventbrite.co.uk (search 'ShortList Spoils')

Join us for our next Book & Beer Club

EVENT



STYLE



Jeez, what a nice coat!

OK, we say it a lot, but this time we really mean it

You think you've got a decent coat. You don't. Whatever you've bought in the past, whatever fancy shop you think you've found true happiness in, it'll never compete with this fine specimen of a thing on the left: the king of all goddamn coats. It's from Debenhams' new label Racing

Green, but the sharp tailoring, midnight-blue hues and instantly-improve-your-outfit-no-matter-how-crummy-you-look vibe means you'll be owning springtime like a true don. It's also a joyous £99, meaning you'll be laughing all the way to the bank, too.

Shop the rest of the collection at debenhams.com

ARTQUEST



CARTOON SOLDIERS

Ben Turnbull's 'No Guts No Glory' at the Saatchi Gallery

There's something unnervingly paradoxical about Ben Turnbull's latest exhibition, 'No Guts No Glory'. As you allow your gaze to drift over the collages on display in a small downstairs room at the Saatchi Gallery, you're forced into an internal wrestle with yourself where, on the one hand, war is horrific. Whether it be the strained, pained and tortured faces of broken men or the weighted words in stylised postcards from fallen soldiers. Turnbull doesn't hold back on the brutality, yet at the same time he fully embraces the subject's place in pop culture. Relying heavily on imagery from retro comics, the collection makes you immediately aware of your own desensitisation. Aesthetically, the cartoonish images excite you with gung-ho bravado; contextually, they burrow deep and leave the guilty realisation that all of us have at some point contributed in the fetishised candy-coating of this very 'true horror'.
What you will learn: War is an all-encompassing beast.
Best bit: The colourful comic-book dialogue that engulfs each piece.

'No Guts No Glory' runs until 8 May at the Saatchi Gallery