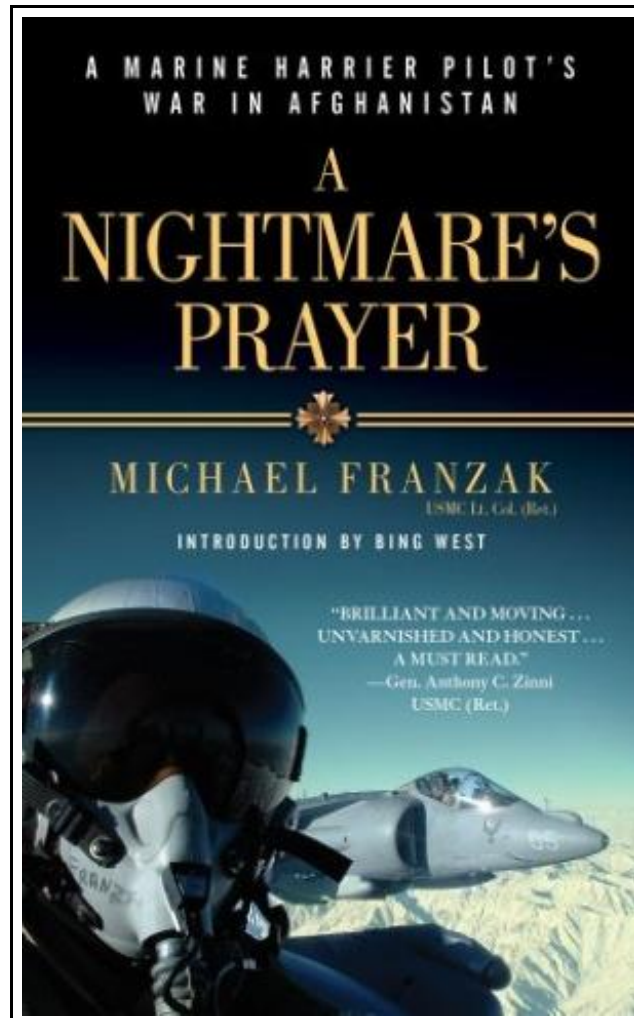


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A NIGHTMARE S PRAYER: A MARINE HARRIER PILOT S WAR IN AFGHANISTAN (PAPERBACK)

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SIMON SCHUSTER, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 170 x 106 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Winner of the 2012 Colby Award and the first Afghanistan memoir ever to be written by a Marine Harrier pilot, *A Nightmare s Prayer* portrays the realities of war in the twenty-first century, taking a unique and powerful perspective on combat in Afghanistan as told by a former enlisted man turned officer. Lt. Col. Michael Zak Franzak was an AV-8B Marine Corps Harrier pilot who served as executive officer of VMA-513, The Flying Nightmares, while deployed in Afghanistan from 2002 to 2003. The squadron was the first to base Harriers in Bagram in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. But what should have been a standard six-month deployment soon turned to a yearlong ordeal as the Iraq conflict intensified. And in what appeared to be a forgotten war half a world away from home, Franzak and his colleagues struggled to stay motivated and do their job providing air cover to soldiers patrolling the inhospitable terrain. I wasn t in a foxhole. I was above it. I was safe and comfortable in my sheltered cocoon 20,000 feet over the Hindu Kush. But I prayed. I prayed when I heard the muted cries of men who at last understood their fate. Franzak s personal narrative captures the day-by-day details of his deployment, from family good-byes on departure day to the squadron s return home. He explains the role the Harrier played over the Afghanistan battlefields and chronicles the life of an attack pilot--from the challenges of nighttime, weather, and the austere mountain environment to the frustrations of working under higher command whose micromanagement often exacerbated difficulties. In vivid and poignant passages, he delivers the full impact of enemy ambushes, the violence of combat,...



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