



The Story of a Fight  
Against All Odds

“A raw and  
authentic war story  
about untamed  
Green Berets in action.”

—DALTON FURY,  
*New York Times* bestselling  
author of *Kill Bin Laden*

LIONS  
OF  
KANDAHAR

MAJOR RUSTY BRADLEY

and Kevin Maurer

Includes a new Afterword by the authors

## About the Authors

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MAJOR RUSTY BRADLEY was wounded during the Battle of Sperwan Ghar in command of a Special Forces A-team, on his third combat tour as a Special Forces team leader. A native of North Carolina, he graduated from Mars Hill College and enlisted in the Army in 1993, serving as an infantryman for six years before earning his commission from Officer Candidate School in 1999. In 2014, Major Bradley was medically retired after twenty-one years of service. He deployed eight times to Afghanistan.

KEVIN MAURER is an award-winning journalist and the best-selling coauthor, with Mark Owen, of *No Easy Day: The First-hand Account of the Mission That Killed Osama bin Laden*. He has covered special operations forces for more than a decade.

As I write this, a final chapter of the war in Afghanistan is coming to a close. Special Forces and other soldiers will still be there in 2015, but not as in the days after September 11, 2001. That war is over. I am not sure how I feel about Afghanistan anymore. Honestly, I am not sure I ever will know how I feel about that place.

I am asked if it was worth it all the time. If that question had been posed before 2008, I would have said yes. We were there to seek vengeance on behalf of the nation and to ensure that the country would never again become a staging ground for terrorists. We had the full support of the White House and the administration. If we needed something, all we had to do was ask. If that question was posed after 2008, I would say no. When your government does not let you win a war in which men sacrifice the greatest gifts they have to offer, their lives and health, then something is very, very wrong. We watched the rules of engagement change for political reasons. We watched

Afghan corruption go unchecked by the State Department. We watched U.S. troop levels drop against the advice of military commanders.

There comes a point in time when you can't fight the enemy, the Afghan government, conventional commanders, and your own government. The war in Afghanistan was meant for Special Forces. It was and still is an unconventional war fought against terrorists and extremist ideology. At this point, as hard as it is to believe, it will be up to the Afghans to determine whether we will be successful in the nation's longest war.

To the enemies of our nation, I simply regret that I have not removed more of you from this earth. You love death as much as we love life. We know this. We Americans have longer memories than you give us credit for. Consider my words carefully, and be warned. Televisions may display our internal strife on the international news, but we will not tolerate your inhumanity or terrorism. You cannot slay the innocent without retaliation or reciprocity. Weak leaders are always followed by strong ones. Our nation's reputation stands in the history books. When these times come, and they will, we will not be divided, and the tyrant and the butcher will fall from self-proclaimed grace. Vengeance will come and the justice of a righteous God will be served. Good will *always* overcome evil.

That was from the last  
two pages of a great  
read (paperback version)  
and it perfectly sums up  
a huge difference between  
Democraps like Obama, Clinton  
and Kerry vs. Republicans like  
Bush & Trump!!!