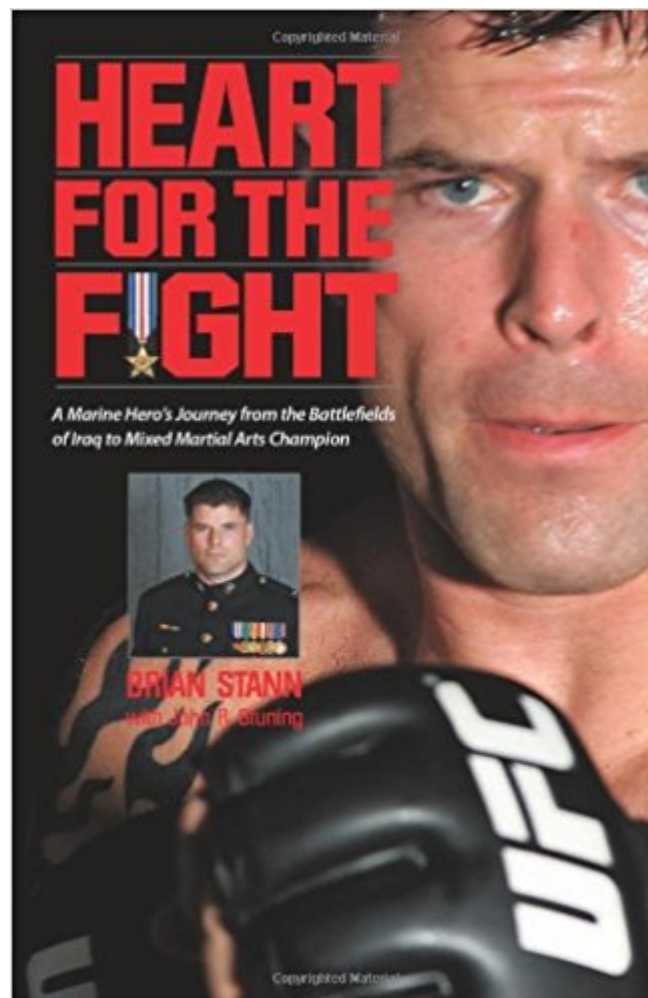




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# Heart For The Fight: A Marine Hero's Journey From The Battlefields Of Iraq To Mixed Martial Arts Champion



## Synopsis

This is the story of a kid from the wrong side of Scranton who made it to the Naval Academy, played linebacker for the Navy football team for four years, became a Marine officer, graduated first in his infantry officer class, led his men in two intense combat tours in the Anbar Province, received the Silver Star for gallantry, and now has emerged as one of the most interesting figures on the mixed martial arts (MMA) professional circuit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Respect is a quality that is earned over time. Respect is given those who put others in front of themselves, to people who do tasks that others would shy away from, and to those who work tirelessly in order to provide for themselves and their family. After reading his book, *Heart for the Fight*, the only word that will come to your mind about Brian Stann is respect. This is an autobiography about a man who has been through and seen so much more than the average American citizen.

When you finish reading this book, it becomes evident that All-American is not just his MMA nickname, it's exactly what he is.

- Bleacher Report, September 7, 2010

Fight Magazine Brian Stann knows a thing or two about fighting. He's been doing it the last 29 years. From fighting off gangs as a kid to serving as a Marine Officer in the Middle East to stepping into the Octagon, Stann has chewed some steel. His new book, *Heart for the Fight*, documents his trials and tribulations. Reason to Read: Stann is a badass. There's just no other way to describe him. If he never wins

another fight in the Octagon, he'll still be a badass. The man led his troops through two intense combat tours and received a Silver Star for gallantry. Now, he fights for the UFC and works as Executive Director of HireHeroes USA, a link to job opportunities for servicemen and women.

Brian Stann served two tours in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom III and IV. As a Marine platoon leader during Operation Matador, he received the Silver Star for valor after his unit encountered vastly superior enemy forces. Brian is a 2003 Annapolis graduate and was starting linebacker on the Naval Academy football team. A former light-heavyweight champion in the WEC (World Extreme Cagefighting), he now fights in the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship), the "big leagues" of mixed martial arts. He is also president of Hired Heroes, an Atlanta-based nonprofit organization that finds employment for America's veterans. John R. Bruning has been a professional military historian and writer since 1990. He is the author of *Crimson Sky: The Air Battle for Korea*, *Jungle Ace*, *Elusive Glory*, *Ship Strike Pacific*, *Luck of the Draw*, and *The Devil's Sandbox: With the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry at War in Iraq*. He served as an embedded civilian historian with the 2/162 during Operation Southern Comfort, the post-Hurricane Katrina relief operation in New Orleans. Bruning also has numerous articles, documentaries, multimedia CD-ROM programs, flight simulators, and museum displays to his credit. He lives in Independence, Oregon.

I admit I favored Brian Stann as an MMA fighter just because he was a former Marine, like me...and this is one of the reasons this book stood out. But unlike me (or most of us), he's been through some of the craziest trials and tribulations a man can go through and overcome them with such unbreakable fortitude--unfathomable for most people. This man epitomizes what a TRUE hero is...what a leader should be...and any Marine would have been greatly honored to have served under him. Reading this book was a page-turner in every sense of the word(s), and will surely give readers a whole new respect for our combatants, elite MMA athletes, and most certainly the man himself, Brian Stann. There are numerous unofficial books recommended by units within the Marine Corps, and I think this should be a new addition to the club for EVERY Marine or civilian. It will unquestionably inspire everyone who reads it, and it would be a shame if Hollywood didn't turn this into a feature-length movie. You want a real All-American story with all the grit and grime that comes from fighting your whole life, finished off with that great American dream? This is it.

I am an MMA fan and have read several other biographies of MMA fighters. This one is the best I

have come across in that it has a narrative structure, rather than being a collection of recollections, observations, and inspirational pep talk. I have been a fan of Stann's since his days in the WEC, and appreciate him in his new role as a UFC commentator as well. The book covers his own introduction to violence in a rough school district, the perseverance of a non-starter on the Naval Academy's football team, surviving an allegation of sexual assault, combat service in Iraq as a rookie Marine officer, and his spare-time MMA training and early WEC fights. Chapters alternate between his biography and his fights. The writing is crisp and clean, and communicates Stann's desire to use the microphone afforded pro fighters to publicize the service and sacrifices of the men in the platoon he commanded, and of his Naval Academy classmates. I enjoyed the book and gained new respect for Stann for having read it. It will be interesting to see if Stann proves to be one of the last of the generation of part-time fighters who competed at the elite level of MMA, since the sport is developing so quickly now.

I particularly liked the theme running through this book - Someone who faced adversity and overcame it. Someone strong and brave yet humble enough to be teachable growing into a respected leader. I love the beginning of Saving Private Ryan where the old veteran crystal ball hopes he's lived a life worthy of the sacrifice of the men who saved him - just one step up from that I hope I live a life worthy of Jess Christmas who sacrificed his life to save me. God bless you Brian

Sadly, most Americans don't realize what America's military personnel go through to keep us free....and they do it on foreign soil not so America can be imperialistic, but to keep these horrors from occurring on American soil. God bless them all; they are always in my prayers. All Americans should read this.

Hardship, perseverance, loyalty, and leadership, all rolled into a well told story. Lessons well worth reading and sharing. Highly recommend for anyone who desires "Getting After It" everyday.

Brian Stann is a modern American Hero and True Warrior, not to mention a full blown MMA badass. He's cut from a different cloth and you can understand it through the book. To be honest I think he should really pursue politics ala. John McCain. As an American and Veteran he's an incredible asset to our country.

I rated this book 5 stars because it was a very inspirational real story of a fellow American. Mr.

Stann faced adversity on many fronts and didn't falter in his character or drive. I am not soldier or veteran, but I recognize the need humanity and the US has for grit, honor, and character. This book inspires it. Thanks Jocko Willink for the recommended reading.

I was expecting the book to focus on Brian's MMA career however was more of his development through his military experiences leading up to joining the UFC. I was fascinated and read the entire book in 2 days. Brian is an incredible human being with a massive heart

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