



# Brief Encounters with the Enemy: Fiction

*Said Sayrafiezadeh*

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Saïd Sayrafiezadeh

**Brief Encounters with the Enemy: Fiction** Saïd Sayrafiezadeh

The first short story collection from a writer who calls to mind such luminaries as Denis Johnson, George Saunders, and Nathan Englander

**FINALIST FOR THE PEN/ROBERT W. BINGHAM PRIZE • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *BOOKPAGE* AND *BOOKISH***

When *The New Yorker* published a short story by Saïd Sayrafiezadeh in 2010, it marked the emergence of a startling new voice in fiction. In this astonishing book, Sayrafiezadeh conjures up a nameless American city and its unmoored denizens: a call-center employee jealous of the attention lavished on a co-worker newly returned from a foreign war; a history teacher dealing with a classroom of maliciously indifferent students; a grocery store janitor caught up in a romantic relationship with a kleptomaniac customer. These men's struggles and fleeting triumphs—with women, with cruel bosses, with the morning commute—are transformed into storytelling that is both universally resonant and wonderfully strange. Sometimes the effect is hilarious, as when a would-be suitor tries to take his sheltered, religious date on a tunnel of love carnival ride. Other times it's devastating, as in the unforgettable story that gives the book its title: A soldier on his last routine patrol on a deserted mountain path finally encounters "the enemy" he's long sought a glimpse of.

Upon giving the author the Whiting Writers' Award for his memoir, *When Skateboards Will Be Free*, the judges hailed his writing as "intelligent, funny, utterly unsmug and unpreening." These fiercely original stories show their author employing his considerable gifts to offer a lens on our collective dreams and anxieties, casting them in a revelatory new light.

## **Praise for *Brief Encounters with the Enemy***

"With impressive guile and design, Mr. Sayrafiezadeh uses the arrival and escalation of that war as the through-line connecting each personal drama. . . . These calculated echoes work to unify [his] haunting book in a way that story collections rarely manage."—**Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal***

"In his memoir, Sayrafiezadeh told the remarkable tale of a childhood steeped in doomed dogma. His stories . . . offer something more: a searing vision of his wayward homeland, delivered not in the clamoring rhetoric of a revolutionary, but in the droll monologues of young men who kill because they lack the moral imagination to do otherwise."—**Steve Almond, *The New York Times Book Review* (Editors' Choice)**

"Sayrafiezadeh's eight interlinked stories are just as fulfilling as any novel you're likely to read this summer."—***The Boston Globe***

"A tantalizing fiction debut . . . [that] menaces and mesmerizes."—***Elle***

"The recurring motifs include 99-cent American flags, putting in a word with the boss, idealistic Army recruitment brochures and unseasonable temperatures. Each time they recur they are more potent, and poignant. The collection is readable, and real, and hopefully a harbinger of more fiction to come from Sayrafiezadeh."—***Minneapolis Star Tribune***

“Funny and surprising . . . Sayrafiezadeh’s simple style can fool you into thinking that his struggling narrators are plain and unassuming. They are anything but. . . . Each story compels you to read the next, and no character escapes unscathed.”—*The Daily Beast*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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#### **Sylvia Johnson:**

Brief Encounters with the Enemy: Fiction can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to place every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Brief Encounters with the Enemy: Fiction but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource info that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into fresh stage of crucial contemplating.

#### **Bobby Kile:**

This Brief Encounters with the Enemy: Fiction is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it details accurately using great arrange word or we can declare no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but tricky core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Brief Encounters with the Enemy: Fiction in your hand like finding the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no publication that offer you world inside ten or fifteen small right but this e-book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt in which?

#### **Craig Palmer:**

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#### **Michael Blossom:**

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