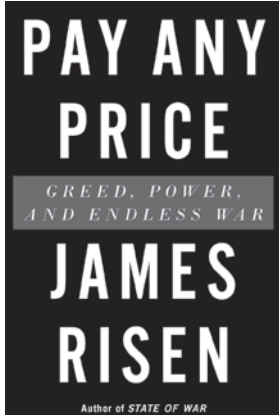


BOOKS & MOVIES

— Books —

**Pay Any Price—
Greed, Power,
and Endless War**

James Risen



Risen's story is not a pleasant one. It is a tale of manufactured fear, too much money, and unaccountable officials. For starters, we learn about:

- the story of President Bush's "enhanced interrogation" program;
- the details behind President Obama's "killer drone" program;
- unsupervised planeloads of cash that "disappeared" somewhere in the streets of Baghdad (we're talking many billions here);
- ruined lives following the Abu Ghraib prison scandal;
- the outrageous fabrication of intelligence that served only to enrich private contractors with public funds;
- the offensive story of otherwise decent citizens succumbing to raw greed in a secret flow of never-ending cash;
- unwarranted secrecy that has allowed federal officials to violate the law with impunity in the pursuit of power and prestige;
- shameful acquiescence by some segments of the military.

After 9-11, sheer panic caused Congress to throw money at our national security apparatus faster than it could spend it. It was a boon to hustlers. Widespread fear led to hasty passage of the so-called "Patriot Act" and executive waivers of long-standing legal protections for our citizenry. It was the start of "anything goes." And, boy, did it go! The question now is: Will it ever stop?

In this book Risen states: "America has become accustomed to a permanent state of war. Only a small slice of society—including many poor and rural teenagers—fight and die, while a permanent national security elite rotates among senior government posts, contracting companies, think tanks, and television commentary, opportunities that would disappear if America was suddenly at peace. To most of America, war has become not only tolerable but profitable, and so there is no longer any great incentive to end it."

The disturbing climate of cover-up, secrecy, and fear has prevented us from having a true national debate on how to strike a balance between individual liberties and state protections. It's time to have that debate—this book is a good start.

Tom Carstens • 541-846-1025

James Risen is an investigative reporter for the *New York Times* who has written extensively about governmental and corporate malfeasance in our interminable "War on Terror." Since 2006, Risen has been pursued by the Department of Justice from both the Bush and Obama administrations for refusal to reveal his sources. *Pay Any Price* will not improve his legal difficulties.

Federal employees and contractors who have tried to work within the system to expose unlawful and unethical conduct on the part of our officials have not fared well. They have faced prosecution, firing, defamation, harassment, and even physical threats. Standard whistle-blower legal protections have been tossed out the window. This is why Edward Snowden chose to go outside the system to expose unconstitutional conduct by the National Security Agency. Many of the sources for this book are people just like Snowden, but who are afraid to follow his path.

Martin Marten

Brian Doyle



Shakespeare and James Joyce and other literary greats sometimes invented words

to express what the native tongue did not provide. Gabriel García Márquez and various Latin American authors use magic realism to express the ineffable: a character opens his mouth to speak, and out flies a tiny bird. Well, Brian Doyle, in his major books, *Mink River*, *The Plover*, and now his latest, *Martin Marten*, uses those authorial devices plus his own personal litany of the peculiar and the poetic.

Martin Marten is in essence a book about communication, about reaching deep into the self and into the innermost selves of others to get at the fundamental truths. Even the trees reach out to each other. As do the rocks: "And this is not even to consider the ancient slow stories of the rocks and their long argument with the lava inside the mountain."

Doyle is obviously very philosophical about all nature, especially the animal world, demonstrated by Moses the crow (*Mink River*) and The Plover of that title, and very much so with the furry piquant marten in this new book. The setting is on the slopes of Mount Hood in the fictionalized village of Zigzag, peopled with a variety of eccentrics and good plain working sorts of all ages, genders, and proclivities. The principal characters are Dave, a 14-year-old boy approaching manhood, his hardworking parents, and his brainy young sister, Maria. The young male marten of the title saves the six-year-old sister when she is caught in a massive September snowstorm. He mysteriously beckons her to a dry haven inside a hollowed tree trunk.

There is romance of every sort, the force—I would impose here—that through the green shoot drives the flower (taken from the title of a Dylan Thomas poem). "He [the little marten] was, that day, more than thirty miles from home and filled with some strange energy that forced him through the woods like a headlong verb in a forest of crowded nouns" (page 168). Is that not delightful?

Doyle, being Doyle, inserts yet another dimension here and there: he lets the silent narrator muse to us readers about the process of knitting together a book. Here: "Hardly ever does a story just stop, right in the middle of the crucial moment like this one, but we had better do so now" (page 164). And there: "and no man would set foot in that place again for another twenty years, which is long past the end of this book, so we have nothing to say of that young man when he does arrive."

This is not a sugarcoated story of cute animals. All these creatures, including the human kind, prey upon one another in order to survive, the larger and more agile frequently making "a delicious meal" of the smaller and slower. The quick and the dead. There is even a very old bobcat who *may* have committed suicide at the end of his long and wily life; he seems to have headed straight down the mountain into a deadly snare. Who knows? As Mr. Douglas, the resident hunter-trapper of the story frequently reminds us, "If you think you know for sure..."

There may be those who will feel that this book, with all its depictions of communication between the likes of rocks and trees, bugs, stream and lake critters, and among the furry folk of the mountain and the world, is just so much anthropomorphized nonsense. But most will feel a gentle happiness at having read it, if only for the compelling adventures of the diverse human creatures reaching out to each other on our own Mount Hood.

I wonder if the Timberline Lodge will have even more visitors than ever this summer after this book makes the rounds. I know that I, for one, want to drive around on the west side of the mountain, poke into any remote general store, and just sit by some log or stream and see what creatures show up to interact.

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Julia Helm Hoskins is the author of *She Caves to Conquer*, a novel set in the American Midwest and in southern Turkey.

Some glowing words about this review directly from author Brian Doyle: "Ah that is lovely thank you. You GOT the deep urge of the book—I savor that. I mostly smile at people who don't get what I am trying to do (they post online shrieking) but I really dig people who do. I love good reviews, sure, but more so I like to feel the connection. B"

— Miniseries —

The Pacific

HBO 10-part miniseries

Reviewer rating: 5 Apples



1 Apple—Don't bother
5 Apples—Don't miss



HBO aired this World War II miniseries in 2010, but I just discovered it a few weeks ago when my wife scored it at a yard sale.

This true story follows the First Marine Regiment from 1942 to 1945 through the beach assaults at Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, and specifically draws on the experiences of three marines:

- Eugene Sledge, played by Joseph Mazzello, is the author of a memoir *With the Old Breed*.
- Robert Leckie, played by James Badge Dale, is the author of a memoir *Helmet for my Pillow*, and many other books.
- John Basilone, played by Jon Seda, was the first enlisted marine to win the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Battle of Guadalcanal, and became one of the most highly decorated enlisted marines of all time. He also was awarded the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

An incredible amount of research went into this miniseries—the producers wanted everything to be as accurate as possible. One of the directors, Tim Van Patten, said, "[*The Pacific*] is not about

America versus Japan. It's about war, and how horrific it could be."

The miniseries won a Peabody Award, several Emmy awards, including Outstanding Miniseries, and a Golden Globe nomination.

The Pacific caused me to ponder these questions: What did the war do to its participants? How can one survive something so horrendous? How can a viewer watch what these guys did and expect to just move on with things?

For me this was the most intense, brutal, in-your-face personal war movie I have ever seen. It raised every kind of emotion that my mind possesses.

J.D. Rogers • 541-846-7736

**Voices of the Applegate**

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir, held its spring concerts on April 10 in The Old Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and on April 12 in the Applegate River Lodge. The four-part harmony selections presented a variety of styles and subject matter from Broadway musicals such as "Kiss the Girl" from *The Little Mermaid*; "Let The River Run" from the motion picture *Working Girl*; and Pergolesi's "Magnificat," a 17th-century composition with six movements.

We are delighted to have Blake Weller as our director to teach and inspire us. We have just ended our 14th year of performances. Admission is free although donations are always welcome.

Our community choir welcomes new singers, whether or not you read music. Each member pays \$55 tuition, which includes remuneration for our director and our accompanist, our music, our venues and a few scholarships.

Find us on Facebook under "Voices of the Applegate," where you can listen to selections from "Magnificat" as it was performed at the Applegate River Lodge. When you visit our Facebook page, don't forget to "Like" us!

For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.