



On Desperate Ground

By James R Benn

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On Desperate Ground is the story of men and women caught up in the death throes of Nazi Germany, struggling to maintain those things precious to them—life, an end to killing, and even sanity itself. Colonel Johann Faust has lost everyone he ever loved and feels he is going inexorably insane. He hears the haunting voice of his dead fiancée and the demons that roar through his mind as he perfects a plan to save Nazi Germany from defeat and insure a greater and deadlier new world war. Captain Dieter Neukirk, once a protégé of Faust's, is more concerned with saving the lives of his remaining men than sacrificing them in a fanatical last stand. Meanwhile, Elsa Klein, Dieter's lover and the chief social worker at a Berlin hospital, is engaged in her own dangerous work, providing medical care and identity papers to hidden Jews in the city. American Captain Mack Mackenzie, pulled from a military hospital before his wounds are healed, is assigned to investigate reports of a secret Nazi operation. Wanting only to make it home alive, Mack finds himself in a life and death struggle with unlikely allies and a ferociously determined opponent. Americans and Germans alike are drawn to a hilltop in the remote German countryside, where they find themselves between powerful armies and forced into a terrible decision that could end one war or begin a new one.

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Editorial Review

Review

A tight-paced adventure, a multi-layered set of events, where strategy, internecine conflict and private rivalries are contained within...a 1945 large-scale German operation...the beat, the quick tempo never lets the reader down...this is a very good novel, and great reading entertainment. - *Ben Pastor, author of THE WATER THIEF, LUMEN, and other novels*

If you love World War II stories, mystery, and intrigue, this novel is for you. Well written, thought provoking, and real to life. A story you will remember for a long time to come. The ending may well stay with you forever. Truly recommended! From the Midwest Book Review

About the Author

James R. Benn is the author of the popular Billy Boyle World War II mystery series. The debut title, *Billy Boyle*, was a Dilys Award nominee and one of Booksense's top five mysteries for 2006. Subsequent titles have received starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal*, and two have been tagged as "Killer Books" by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association.

Benn lives in Hadlyme, Connecticut, with his wife, Deborah Mandel. For more information, visit his website at www.jamesrbenn.com.

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