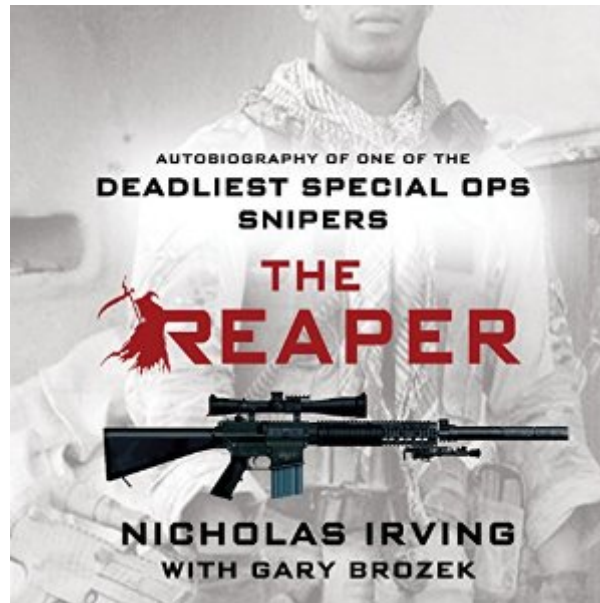


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# The Reaper: Autobiography Of One Of The Deadliest Special Ops Snipers



## Synopsis

Groundbreaking, thrilling and revealing, *The Reaper* is the astonishing memoir of Special Operations Direct Action Sniper Nicholas Irving, the 3rd Ranger Battalion's deadliest sniper with 33 confirmed kills, though his remarkable career total, including probables, is unknown. In the best-selling tradition of *American Sniper* and *Shooter*, Irving shares the true story of his extraordinary career, including his deployment to Afghanistan in the summer of 2009, when he set another record, this time for enemy kills on a single deployment. His teammates and chain of command labeled him "The Reaper," and his actions on the battlefield became the stuff of legend, culminating in an extraordinary face-off against an enemy sniper known simply as The Chechnian. Irving's astonishing first-person account of his development into an expert assassin offers a fascinating and extremely rare view of special operations combat missions through the eyes of a Ranger sniper during the Global War on Terrorism. From the brotherhood and sacrifice of teammates in battle to the cold reality of taking a life to protect another, no other audiobook dives so deeply inside the life of a sniper on point.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book's subtitle is somewhat misleading. It reads: "Autobiography of one of the deadliest special ops snipers". The story that this book tells is the personal story of the deployment of a Ranger sniper during a 100 day deployment to Afghanistan, during which this sniper has 33 confirmed kills. The book is written like a series of war stories, but it flows very well. The author tells us of his

feelings and his actions during the various encounters, and while he does not tell the story of each and every one of his kills, it is a gripping story of how the modern battlefield works in places like Afghanistan. Throughout the story of this one deployment, there are sprinklings of the author's early life as well as some anecdotes from his earlier career in the Army. The book weaves these anecdotes in to the storyline in a very compelling way to help explain why and how the author ended up where he did. During this deployment, the author was the sniper team lead with the rank of Sergeant and was already in his sixth year in the Army. This deployment turned out to be his last as he left the Army afterwards. As you read this book, you'll understand more about how and why a young American decided to join the military, the path that he took over the six and a half year contract that he signed, and why he decided to leave the Army. While not the meat of this book, this story arc is behind the individual stories in the book and tells the larger story in a very clear and compelling way. The book starts with his deployment to Afghanistan when he is expecting a boring 100 day deployment. An expectation that is shattered on his very first night when during the operation he ends up killing two Taliban gunmen.

"The Reaper: Autobiography of One of the Deadliest Special Ops Snipers" by Nicholas Irving with Gary Brozek is Irving's first hand account of why he joined the military and some of his missions in Afghanistan where he served as a sniper with the 3rd Ranger Battalion. As a former Army trained sniper myself, but from a different time and place (2nd I.D. Scout Sniper School at Camp Casey, Korea, in the 80s), I especially found it interesting to read the missions of this Ranger who was in diapers when I was training with the M-21. It showed how some things have changed, but others are still the same. Reading the book felt like a conversation with Irving, who told his story in a way one might when sitting around having a drink and discussing his military career. Sometimes it skipped around a bit, rather than straight through in a chronological order. But that is often how we remember and tell stories of our past. I found it refreshing that he admitted his fears and being lucky, rather than boasting and bragging about his exploits. Yes, Irving was a highly trained special ops sniper, and he was good at what he was trained to do. But sometimes it really is luck or good fortune that places a soldier into the position to excel as Irving did. (If you want to call it good fortune to be put into the heat of battle.) But as Irving shares in his memoir, soldiers that train as rigorously for war as Rangers and other special ops do often itch to use their training for real. It's something I understand and respected Irving for writing about. The camaraderie and respect for his fellow service men was apparent, as was that this was a memoir of someone who is still a young man.

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