



Blind Fall: A Novel

By Christopher Rice

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From three-time *New York Times* bestselling author Christopher Rice -- whose novels have been called "bold and ambitious" by *The New York Times*, "chillingly perverse" by *USA Today*, and "shocking, sexy...intricate" by *Glamour* -- comes this startling psychological thriller about an Iraq War vet who seeks redemption and revenge when a fellow Marine he failed to protect during the war is brutally murdered.

John Houck became a Marine to become a hero. But his life changed when he failed to notice an explosive device that ended up maiming the captain of his Force Recon Company, a respected Marine who nearly sacrificed himself to save John's life.

Home from Iraq, John pays a visit to his former captain, only to discover the captain has been gruesomely murdered. John pursues a strange man he sees running from the scene, but he discovers that Alex Martin is not the murderer. Alex is, in fact, the former captain's secret male lover and the killer's intended next victim.

When it becomes clear that local law enforcement has direct connections to the murder itself, John realizes that to repay his debt of honor, he must teach Alex Martin how to protect himself, even if that means teaching Alex to kill. In the process, John confronts the painful truth about the younger brother he was unable to protect and the older sister he always felt he failed.

Blind Fall is a story of honor and integrity, of turning failure into victory. It is a stunning departure for Christopher Rice: the story of two men, one a Marine, one gay, who must unite to avenge the death of the man they both loved -- one as a brother-in-arms, one as a lover -- and to survive.

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Blind Fall: A Novel By Christopher Rice Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1467923 in Books
- Published on: 2008-03-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.19" h x 6.40" w x 9.36" l, 1.08 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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Amazon.com Exclusive

A Letter from Christopher Rice

Dear Amazon.com Reader,



Authors hate answering the question "what is your book about?" because deep down most of us are arrogant enough to believe that our books are about *everything*. Birth, death, love, grief. You name it, I probably think it's in there somewhere, albeit sometimes only in the form of a throwaway character, like a wisecracking gas station attendant who pops off a few good lines about living in the present as my main character bounces on the balls of his feet, impatient to be rung up so he can race to his next car-chase. But the longer I write for a living, the more it becomes clear to me that while arrogance is a helpful tool for dealing with one's own negative reviews (or the death threats that have been posted alongside your promotional video on YouTube), the question "what is your book about" is one that I better have a coherent answer to long before it's posed to me by anyone besides the ever-present critic who lives in my head. Otherwise I find myself writing entire chapters about the shape of a certain box hedge because I've lost my way and fallen prey to that childish belief that writing is about nothing more than filling up a page. (It is, kind of, but only when you're past deadline.) That said, I can say with confidence that my latest thriller, *Blind Fall*, is a novel about self-acceptance. It's about how we are often forced to let go of something we believed to be an absolute truth before we can treat ourselves with the same respect we would grant our

closest friend. And in that sense, it is also a story about how our own visions of our past, of where we came from and what made us who we are, become incomplete and deceptive if we turn away from those who walked the path with us and the insights they have to offer into our own personal history.

Phew! Got that out of the way. How was that, Amazon.com editors? Did I win over some Jonathan Franzen readers with that one?

Please note that I referred to my own novel as a thriller. I did so with pride. As I've said now in numerous interviews, *Blind Fall* was intended to be lean, clear and forceful, a suspenseful story about gays in the military that might appeal to the broadest audience possible. That doesn't mean I dumbed down or cleaned up a more "literary"--God, I hate that word--story that's still sitting in my desk drawer. It means I chose to tell the entire story from the point-of-view of the character facing the greatest personal challenge of any in the book--John Houck, the battle-scarred Marine who discovers the comrade who saved his life in combat was secretly gay. Anything that didn't serve John's character, that didn't ring true to who he was, didn't make the cut. That was a challenge. I love the guy as much as I do any of my protagonists but let's just say we probably wouldn't end up voting for the same candidate in the Presidential election this coming November and we certainly have different CDs in rotation. (To get into character sometimes I would depart from my usual film score montages and get amped up on a little Coheed & Cambria and Incubus. Don't laugh! It's not that big of a stretch. I went to a Motley Crue concert when I was twelve.)

I also chose to tell you who the killer was about 70 pages in. Why? Because this novel is not a whodunit. This novel is a what-the-hell-are-they-going-to-do, but that's got a few too many words in it so we call those thrillers. Don't get me wrong; there are some twists and turns along the way, but I didn't want the reader breaking sweat over who was responsible for the murder that starts off the action. I wanted the reader's heart to become invested in the relationship between John, the straight (and more than a little homophobic) Marine, and Alex, the secret gay lover of the man who saved John's life. How are these two very different men going to come to accept one another, if at all? This is the question that dominated my thoughts while I was writing the book, and if you decide to give it a read, I hope it dominates yours as well. Sometimes the best suspense comes not from the revelation of a previously concealed detail that's been skillfully foreshadowed, but from wondering how a character you have come to know intimately over the course of many chapters is going to react to a seemingly insurmountable set of obstacles. That's what I was shooting for with *Blind Fall*.

So there you have it, along with a few unsolicited personal details about yours truly. (Like the fact that I went to a Motley Crue concert when I was twelve.) At the very least, I hope *Blind Fall* keeps some of you up late at night. For the next month, my late nights will all be spent in hotels as I cross the country to promote this puppy. Maybe I'll get to meet some of you along the way.

Best,

Christopher Rice

From Publishers Weekly

Rice's fourth thriller (after 2005's *Light Before Day*) clumsily mixes the plight of gays in the military with an unlikely murder investigation. John Houck, a former marine sergeant, returns to the States from Iraq, determined to make amends with his commanding officer, Capt. Mike Bowers, who was gravely injured due to John's negligence. But when he tracks Mike down at home in Owensville, Calif., John discovers Mike

gruesomely murdered in his bed. John, who had no idea Mike was gay, reluctantly joins forces with Alex Martin, Mike's live-in boyfriend, to bring the killer to justice. After John and Alex learn that local law enforcement played a role in Mike's death, they must go on the run to save their own lives. A subplot involving John's brother's suicide distracts in a subpar effort that lacks the complexity of Rice's earlier novels. *10-city author tour.* (Mar.)

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Review

"*Blind Fall* is a tale of heroism and cowardice, a yearning search for redemption and acceptance, and a haunting portrayal of characters, both gay and straight. Christopher Rice writes with a sharp eye and a full heart." -- T. Jefferson Parker, author of *Storm Runners* and *The Fallen*

"The name Rice is synonymous with seamless and sensitive prose, and Christopher lives up to that name....A timely and compelling story, with shadings and ambiguities that demonstrate Chris's maturity as a writer." -- Sandra Brown, author of *Play Dirty* and *Ricochet*

"Christopher Rice is a phenomenal writer, and *Blind Fall* is exquisite proof of that fact. He brings unforgettable characters and unrelenting suspense together in a powerful story that will stay with you long after you've closed the back cover. This is the thriller at its best." -- Jan Burke, author of *Kidnapped* and *Bloodlines*

"Christopher Rice has written a high-style, high-speed thriller with a furious rhythm and pace that will satisfy his legion of fans and find him plenty of new ones." -- Mark Childress, author of *One Mississippi* and *Crazy in Alabama*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ricky Streeter:

The book *Blind Fall: A Novel* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make studying a book *Blind Fall: A Novel* to become your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You could know everything if you like available and read a e-book *Blind Fall: A Novel*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Roberto Senn:

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Phillip Chadwick:

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Alice Olivares:

The book Blind Fall: A Novel has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was compiled by the very famous author. McDougal makes some research ahead of write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this book.

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