

Thank You for Your Service  
by David Finkel.  
Scribe Publications 2013.

David Finkel's first book, *The Good Soldiers*, about the US Military's 'surge' in Iraq in 2007, brought home to readers not just the brutality of the fighting in that country but its impact on those who served there. To some degree the content of that book was not unfamiliar to those who had read books about other desperate battles in other places at other times, but what made the book outstanding was the degree to which Finkel took the reader right into the heart of the situation and held him there till the final page.

*Thank You For Your Service* is in every way a companion piece to *The Good Soldiers*, and it is devastating. Finkel tells the story of brave men brought to the edge of despair, and complete emotional and physical breakdown, by their combat experiences, and the terrible impact it has on their wives and children, who effectively become yet more collateral damage to the campaign.

The reader follows the principal characters between theatre of war, hospital, home, rehabilitation, and the experience is excoriating.

*Thank You for Your Service* is one of the finest depictions of the destruction that war exerts on once healthy young men whose experience of combat changes their lives, and the lives of those they love, for ever. Having read this book it is hard not to conclude that death on the field of battle may be a better option than a fractured later life, dominated by dark demons who can never be shaken off.

Rabbi DR Charles H Middleburgh