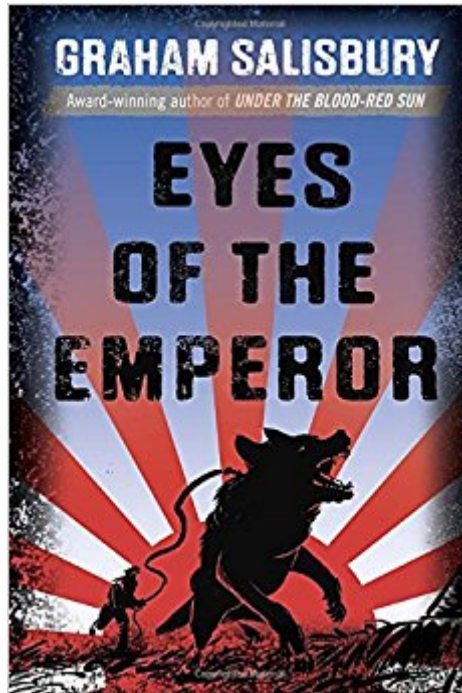




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Eyes Of The Emperor



Synopsis

Eddy Okubo lies about his age and joins the army in his hometown of Honolulu only weeks before the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Suddenly Americans see him as the enemy—even the U.S. Army doubts the loyalty of Japanese American soldiers. Then the army sends Eddy and a small band of Japanese American soldiers on a secret mission to a small island off the coast of Mississippi. Here they are given a special job, one that only they can do. Eddy's going to help train attack dogs. He's going to be the bait.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up
Salisbury continues to make his mark by bringing alive the time in Hawaii when the U.S. entered World War II. Eddy, a 16-year-old Japanese American, tells how he and his buddies, Chik and Cobra, become part of Company B of the 100th Infantry Battalion following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Without discounting the community's old loyalties to Japan, the story makes clear the transition caused by the declaration of war, and by the desire to be part of the great fight to protect America. These young men are patriotic, but the powers that be have a hard time trusting their dedication. The novel is based on historical fact, and Salisbury brings events vividly to life as he recounts one humiliation after another foisted on the troops, from the top down to their immediate

commanders. In one scene, these soldiers are heading to training camps on trains that pass internment camps for other Japanese Americans. As the actual assignment unfolds— they are to act as bait in the training of attack dogs— the pernicious racism and absurd beliefs are further revealed. The immediacy of the writing allows readers to imagine themselves as one of the boys. A story with huge implications for observers of current events.

Carol A. Edwards, Douglas County Libraries, Castle Rock, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Gr. 7-10. Like Harry Mazer's *Heroes Don't Run*, on p.1671, this novel is about a teen, this time from Honolulu, who lies about his age to enlist in the U.S Army during World War II. But Eddie Okubo, 16, is Japanese American, and the racism he encounters in the military is as terrifying to him as the fire of the enemy. Here Salisbury draws on his interviews with many Japanese American veterans who remember their experiences in powerful detail--their patriotism, courage, and anguish. Eddie's frank, first-person narrative weaves in the facts of how the "Japs" were segregated from the regular soldiers, assigned unskilled hard labor and marches to nowhere, and then, in a shocking (failed) experiment that was ordered by President Roosevelt, were directed to act as enemies and train attack dogs to pick up the so-called Japanese body odor. The cruel training, the vicious prejudice from many officers, the camaraderie among the soldiers, and the mixed-up news from family bring a view of American history seldom told and open up the meanings of homeland and patriotism. Salisbury's *Under the Blood-Red Sun* (1994), which was also set in Hawaii after Pearl Harbor, won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I loved this book, especially how Salisbury captures the "Americanness" of the young protagonist. The section in which he allows himself to be used as bait in a horrible K- (experiment was hard to read, but worth it. His use of Island patois among the characters is a convincing character device. As a side note, some of it's readers might enjoy *Barstow Bones*, in which an Asian-American college student hides out in a post-Pearl Harbor Barstow movie theater while a while a gang of white teen-age thugs, pursue him. When newsreel footage of a Japanese Zero being shot down show s on the screen, Tommy cheers along with the rest of the audience. He is, like the young protagonist of *Eyes of the Emperor*, first of all an American.

good book

Eyes of the Emperor by Graham Salisbury is the novelized version of WWII dog test trials that used young Japanese men as "bait", believing that the Japanese exuded a different scent than Americans. These trials were authorized by President Roosevelt. Although this book was a YA adult book (I read in less than 3 hours), it was interesting enough to keep me glued to the pages! 5 stars

I have always been interested in World War II. Reading of the sacrifices the people made and the suffering they went through and reading of their determination and bravery is an inspiration to me. I would recommend this book to all as we need to learn of others strength in trials that we may be able to withstand our trials also and those that may come our way.

About a third of my way through but felt confident that my review would be valid. Very well written bringing out the essence of people's thoughts and feelings in that timeframe.

Salisbury has written a nuanced book, capturing in a sensitive, captivating way the complex sentiments and ethnic, race, class, and nationalistic/patriotic issues and relations of Hawai'iian society at that crucial moment in history. Well-written, well done!

I really enjoyed the book even though it was sad. I think that it is worth reading. A great book.

I purchased this book for kindle so that my granddaughter could keep up with her homework while we were on vacation. I read it and learned even more about how badly the Americans of Japanese descent were treated after Pearl Harbour. Graham Salisbury has done so much research on this subject and I look forward to reading more of his books

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