



Killing Che: A Novel

By Chuck Pfarrer

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Chuck Pfarrer's acclaimed *Warrior Soul* has been called one of the finest memoirs of modern Special Operations Forces. Now the decorated Navy SEAL makes his dazzling fiction debut with this gutsy, riveting thriller about the action-packed hunt for history's most infamous rebel insurgent: Che Guevara.

The year is 1967. Paul Hoyle, a CIA paramilitary officer, has resigned from the agency an incident in Laos that left one man dead and Hoyle's face scarred by gunshot. But Hoyle is soon drawn back into the agency's fold, finding himself a "fallen angel," an independent contractor the U.S. secretly sends to global hot spots.

Bolivia, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, is a nation ripe for Communist infiltration and revolution. So the stage is set for a duel between world ideologies, with players from Washington to Moscow to Havana. After a Bolivian army unit is disastrously ambushed, Hoyle is dispatched to South America by a CIA concerned that another Vietnam may be in the works. With Cuban-sponsored guerrillas afoot and a corrupt Bolivian military opposing them, Hoyle finds the jungle a treacherous place where honor and morality are surrendered to the basic business of survival.

Though Che Guevara, the charismatic revolutionary who helped Castro take hold in Cuba, is believed to have been killed in the Congo—or executed by Fidel himself—a rucksack recovered after a deadly gunfight suggests that the Marxist rebel may be heading up this new, highly effective insurgency.

World-weary Hoyle draws ever nearer to the passionate revolutionary, as a struggle between worldviews is fought with automatic weapons in steamy jungles, veiled threats in government offices, and even exchanged secrets in hotel bedrooms—for at the center of this intense cat-and-mouse game are two captivating women who may hold the keys to these men's destinies. Tania Vünke is Guevara's crucial undercover operative and occasional lover, a conflicted woman with secrets entrusted to her by Guevara himself. And beautiful Maria Aguilar is the elegant mistress of the Bolivian minister of information, a tormented soul whom Hoyle dares to trust with both information and his heart.

Terrorism expert Chuck Pfarrer packs this electrifying plot with insider knowledge of intelligence tradecraft. Populated with powerfully drawn characters, *Killing Che* is a stunning re-creation of a conflict that sealed the fate

of one of the twentieth century's most controversial and complex political figures—a man whose renown continues to grow decades after his violent end.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this ambitious, meticulous thriller, Pfarrer's first novel, set in 1967, CIA officer Paul Hoyle travels to Bolivia to participate in an operation to eliminate the leftist revolutionary Che Guevara. As Hoyle descends deeper and deeper into a web of suspect alliances and unsavory types, he begins to have doubts about his mission. His admiration for Guevara is one problem. Another comes in the form of a romance with Maria Agular, who works for a government ministry. Unfortunately, this romance never rises above cliché ("not only did they delight in making love, they enjoyed each other's company"). Far more convincing is Guevara's relationship with his lover "Tania" (Heidi Tamara Vünke). Pfarrer, an ex-Navy Seal and author of the memoir *Warrior Soul*, is unwilling or unable to give the iconic figure of Guevara a personal life that feels lived in or comfortable. Still, the action moves forward at a brisk pace, and the research never overwhelms the reader. If the novel falters somewhat in the last pages, it's precisely because of the failure to fully imagine Guevara the private individual. (Apr.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review CIA "contractors" get the least desirable jobs, and Paul Hoyle gets the least of the least. It's 1967, and the cold war is hot in many places, but Hoyle is in the Bolivian bush to verify the identity of two bodies found in the jungle. Then he meets Smith, who arrives to crush a Communist guerrilla movement, and he learns that their target is the charismatic Che Guevara. Author Pfarrer, a successful screenwriter of action films, is also a former Navy SEAL, and he has written a superior first novel. It has fully fleshed characters, both real and fictional, plenty of action, a tender but fated love affair, interesting bits of tradecraft from spying and soldiering, beaucoup betrayals, an authentic-sounding realpolitik, and a palpable sense of jungle warfare and immoral Third World government. His Che, based on Che's diaries and much other research, is almost as fascinating as the legend of Che: a skinny, asthma-ridden man with messianic tendencies and a gift for leadership. Hoyle wears his honor on his sleeve, and the reader is left to hope that he emerges with his skin. *Thomas Gaughan*

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Review

Praise for *Killing Che*

"CIA "contractors" get the least desirable jobs, and Paul Hoyle gets the least of the least. It's 1967, and the Cold War is hot in many places, but Hoyle is in the Bolivian bush to verify the identity of two bodies found in the jungle. Then he meets 'Mr. Smith', who arrives to crush a Communist guerrilla movement, and he learns that their target is the charismatic Che Guevara. Author Pfarrer, a successful screenwriter, is also a former Navy SEAL, and he has written a superior first novel. It has fully fleshed characters, both real and fictional, plenty of action, a tender but fated love affair, interesting bits of tradecraft from spying and soldiering, beaucoup betrayals, an authentic-sounding realpolitik, and a palpable sense of jungle warfare and immoral Third World government. His Che, based on Che's diaries and much other research, is almost as fascinating as the legend of Che: a skinny, asthma-ridden man with messianic tendencies and a gift for leadership. Hoyle wears his honor on his sleeve, and the reader is left to hope that he emerges with his skin."
—*Booklist* (STARRED REVIEW)

"In his first novel, ex-Navy SEAL and screenwriter Pfarrer (*Warrior Soul*) captures the sense of foreboding surrounding Che's last days. Readers will almost be able to smell the pervading stench of corruption. An extremely well-written, well-researched, and well-crafted debut...."—*Library Journal*

"In this ambitious, meticulous thriller... the action moves forward at a brisk pace..."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Chuck Pfarrer's masterfully drawn hero Paul Hoyle is a war-worn father to 24's Jack Bauer. This is a tale about the life of the anxious mind and the ravages of living wholly in the physical world, where, as Hoyle says, the questions are in black and white, but the answers are all in grey. After his previous book *Warrior Soul*, Pfarrer has extended himself into new territory, lyrically, at a sprinter's pace. Chuck Pfarrer is the real thing, a man in total command of his subject. His talents as a former operative in the world of counter-terrorism are matched only by his psychological range as an artist. *Killing Che* is a soaring aria about the world to come, and the world that is here. Now."—DOUG STANTON, *New York Times* Best Selling Author of *IN HARM'S WAY* and *THE HORSE SOLDIERS*

"*Killing Che* is an elegant, even poetic achievement; a masterpiece of suspense and a razor sharp journey through good and evil."—DUNCAN FALCONER, Former SBS Operator, and Best Selling Author of *THE PROTECTOR*, *THE HIJACK* and *THE OPERATOR*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruth Aguilar:

Inside other case, little people like to read book Killing Che: A Novel. You can choose the best book if you appreciate reading a book. Providing we know about how is important the book Killing Che: A Novel. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, since from book you can learn everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will end up known. About simple factor until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's examine.

Carrie Hanks:

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Linda McGrane:

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