

## Coverage for *Remember Me When September Comes*

**Title:** *Remember Me When September Comes*

**Author:** Jakob Gentry

**Genre:** War/Thriller/Drama

**Setting:** Iraq, 2008 – Operation Iraqi Freedom

**Pages:** 200+

**Coverage Date:** September 14, 2024

**Reviewer:** David Levine Bramante

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### Logline:

A U.S. government contractor in Iraq is tasked with repatriating his best friend's body after a mysterious death, leading him into a dangerous investigation that unravels dark secrets, not only about the war but about the hidden life of his friend.

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### Summary:

Set in the dangerous backdrop of Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom, *Remember Me When September Comes* follows Jason, a civilian contractor working with the U.S. military, as he navigates the complexities of war and espionage. Jason's world is shaken when his friend and colleague, Scott, dies under suspicious circumstances while on R&R in Dubai.

Determined to find out the truth behind Scott's death, Jason embarks on a tense investigation that uncovers a tangled web of personal secrets, political intrigue, and possibly even espionage. As he probes deeper into Scott's hidden life, Jason realizes that his friend was involved in activities far beyond what anyone had suspected. Jason's search for answers puts him in direct conflict with dangerous forces who are determined to keep the truth hidden, even if it means silencing him too.

The story juxtaposes Jason's internal struggles—dealing with his grief, guilt, and the moral complexities of war—with the external dangers of the warzone, where threats are constant and trust is fleeting. The novel explores themes of loyalty, the psychological toll of combat, and the personal costs of secrecy.

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### **Comments:**

### **Strengths:**

1. **Unique Perspective:** The novel offers a fresh viewpoint on war, focusing on a civilian contractor rather than soldiers, allowing for a different exploration of the Iraq War and its impacts on various individuals involved.
2. **Character Development:** Jason is a well-drawn character whose emotional journey drives the narrative. His sense of loyalty and personal stakes in Scott's mysterious death make for a compelling protagonist. His interactions with supporting characters, like Larry and Wahid, create a strong emotional core.
3. **Themes of Intrigue and Betrayal:** The narrative masterfully blends military drama with espionage and personal secrets, creating a tense, suspense-filled atmosphere that would translate well to film.
4. **Cinematic War Setting:** The detailed depictions of Baghdad's Green Zone, the military operations, and life in a combat zone provide rich visuals and action sequences for a film adaptation. The corkscrew landings, MRAP convoys, and bombings offer moments of heightened tension and spectacle.

### **Weaknesses:**

1. **Pacing:** The novel's first act is slow to set up, with detailed descriptions of the warzone that could benefit from trimming in a screenplay to maintain audience engagement. The middle act picks up once the investigation begins, but there are moments where the tension could be tighter.
2. **Secondary Character Depth:** While Jason is well-developed, some supporting characters, particularly Scott, are portrayed mostly through flashbacks or brief

interactions. In a film adaptation, giving Scott more screen presence and developing his character before his death could heighten the emotional impact.

3. Complex Plot Threads: The mix of military life, personal drama, and espionage can become convoluted at times. Simplifying or focusing on one primary narrative—Jason’s quest for the truth—would help streamline the story for film.

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#### Casting and Director Suggestions:

- Lead (Jason): Actors like Jake Gyllenhaal (*Jarhead*) or Oscar Isaac (*Triple Frontier*) could excel in the role of Jason, bringing both emotional depth and the necessary gravitas for the intense scenes of war and espionage.
- Supporting (Scott): A charismatic actor like Aaron Paul (*Breaking Bad*) or Chris Pratt (*Zero Dark Thirty*) would fit well as Scott, whose hidden life becomes the central mystery.
- Director: Kathryn Bigelow (*The Hurt Locker*, *Zero Dark Thirty*) would be an ideal director for this adaptation, given her experience with war films and the portrayal of psychological tension.

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#### Comparable Films:

- *The Hurt Locker* – For its focus on the psychological toll of war and the tension between personal emotions and professional duties.
- *Body of Lies* – Blends espionage, action, and intrigue in a Middle Eastern setting, similar to *Remember Me When September Comes*.
- *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi* – Showcases the chaos and unpredictability of war zones, echoing the dangers Jason faces in Baghdad.

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#### Budget and Commercial Potential:

- Budget: Mid-range, around \$30-50M, given the war setting, military vehicles, and action sequences needed to capture the intensity of the environment.

- **Commercial Potential:** With a strong war-drama focus and the mystery/investigation subplot, the film has potential for both critical acclaim and commercial success. It could attract a broad audience of military-drama fans as well as those interested in espionage thrillers. The film could do well in both the U.S. and international markets, particularly with the war backdrop.
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#### Target Audience:

This adaptation would appeal to audiences who enjoy war dramas and thrillers with a strong emotional core. Fans of films like *The Hurt Locker*, *Lone Survivor*, and *Body of Lies* would be drawn to the action, tension, and human drama presented in *Remember Me When September Comes*.

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#### Recommendation:

##### ***Consider with Revisions.***

The novel's strong emotional core, war setting, and suspenseful mystery make it a strong candidate for film adaptation. However, some plot streamlining and pacing adjustments would be necessary to ensure the film maintains audience engagement throughout. With a talented director and cast, this story has the potential to resonate deeply with both critics and a wide audience, delivering a war film that blends personal emotion with high-stakes thriller elements.

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#### Final Thoughts:

*Remember Me When September Comes* offers a fresh take on the war genre, blending military action with a personal, suspense-filled investigation. With its compelling protagonist and rich setting, it could make a visually stunning and emotionally engaging film.