

## BOOK SYNOPSIS Black Widow Bitches

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In this literary war novel, acclaimed author Victor Cass takes us into heart-thumping battles across Europe and Africa with America's—and the world's—first all-female combat infantry division.

The "War on Terrorism" spirals out of control and engulfs much of the globe. Iconic cities and countries are reduced to ruins of hopelessness throughout much of the free world, as rampaging terrorists unite across national, ethnic, and political lines to establish a continental Caliphate and crush millions of resisters.

Opposed to a draft, the U.S. President urges each American family to send one volunteer to fight. A daring woman general proposes a bold move: training women for full-fledged combat in elite, all-women military units. Despite immense odds, her plan is grudgingly accepted, and the history-shattering "Black Widows" paratroopers are born.

But who will train these women to become hardened warriors? No self-respecting man. Rejection of women in combat runs deep in the American military.

Captain Elias Marin, a highly-decorated combat veteran court-martialed and convicted for disobedience in battle, steps forward. Demoted, without family and options, he takes on the task to avoid imprisonment and to redeem himself. Full of doubts, with a history of anxiety attacks, Marin doggedly transforms young women into warriors and prepares them, and himself, for the crucible of combat.

Defying stereotypes, the Black Widows are a motley crew from all over the U.S. whose struggles make us laugh, weep, and marvel as they evolve from doubt and weakness into power they never knew they had. Prime among them are Marin's "Fearsome Foursome":

Arcie Martinez, from South El Monte, CA, a grieving Latina whose Marine brother was killed in the war; Janice Moore, a wealthy Black American from Chicago; Perle Floyd, a religious virgin from Spokane, WA; and Laura Smalls, a poor white girl from Birmingham, AL, with a doting father and an abusive lover. Facing enemies inside and outside their ranks, the Fearsome Foursome and their fellow Black Widows battle jihadists and their brutal allies in increasingly deadly combat. Called "Black Widow Bitches" by their snarling, battered enemies, the women fight ferociously. Throughout each conflict, the

historic Black Widows struggle, above all, to reconcile their humanity with the barbarism and devastation of war.