“Two Sons” by Stewart Gill Owen.

It’s 1932 and Hitler and the Nazi Party are threatening to take control of Germany. There is a growing fear of another war.

Two families from vastly different backgrounds make their way to visit their sons’ war graves in the Flanders region of Belgium. John and Annie Williams are on their annual trip from England in memory of their son, Herbert, who had been killed while fighting at the battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Erich and Martina Lehmann have travelled from Germany to pay their respects to the memory of their son, Kurt who died in the same campaign. During their visit, the couples meet and in the wake of such devastation, confrontational events take place.

“Two Sons” moves from the war on the western front to the domestic lives of both families over a period of two decades. Having lost their sons in one conflict, both families fear that they may have to make further sacrifices in light of the growing threat.

About the Author

Stewart Gill Owen was born in Blackburn and grew up in Lancashire. After art school, his career was in design and advertising, and as a lecturer in further and higher education. He now lives in Somerset with his wife Jessie. Their two daughters often visit, bringing the five grandsons with them. Stewart is a keen historian. It is the most immediate and ‘living’ history that has inspired Two Sons, which is his first book. Many of us still have links with the First World War. Stewart lost an uncle in Flanders and one of his ancestors was the poet Wilfred Owen. Something that happened so long ago is in many ways still with us.

Reviews

“This is a very engaging story with rich characterisation, a roller coaster of emotions and excellent period detail.” Bruce Payne, Amazon UK.

“I really enjoyed this read, and would congratulate the author on the way he handled such a sensitive subject and told the stories of two separate families intertwining the past with the present.” Weeki, Amazon UK.

“This book is a sensitive reminder of the impact the war had on both sides. A very good read, which I highly recommend.” JR Hold, amazon UK.

“One hundred years on this is a very relevant book for young and old. Read it. You will giggle and cry, and be glad you did.” H P Johns, Amazon UK.

Background

“Some of my family history forms the basis of this book,” says Stewart, “I changed some of the characters, added to the detail of events and changed the name of the family. I wanted to tell a story that promoted the experiences of joy, pride, despair, love, grief and the fear of loss. Two Sons is about those emotions, it’s about the passion and the feelings that many of us share, regardless of nationality, class, faith and status.”

It’s a story about the consequences of the battle of Passchendaele that took place in Flanders in 1917. The book is based on a number of confrontational encounters that takes place between a British and a German family in Belgium in the summer of 1932.

“I chose the date because, in July of that year, Hitler and the Nazi party were threatening to take control of Germany” says Stewart, “and there was a growing fear in Belgium of the possibility of renewed hostilities.” During the visit, heated disagreements and arguments take place. The story moves from the
The choice of the battle of Passchendaele as the main campaign theme of the story was very deliberate. “Passchendaele or as it was also known, the Third Battle of Ypres,” explains Stewart, “became it’s known, not only for the scale of the carnage and the high level of casualties, but also for the mud and the creation of a desolate landscape that is so recognizable as a typical image of World War One.”

“Although it’s a work of fiction,” continues Stewart, “I wanted the detail to be as accurate as I could make it and this involved considerable in-depth research. My view is that this is a story that has never been told in any depth before. This is my first novel I know it won’t be my last I’m already working on a sequel.”

Connect with Stewart: Twitter / Facebook

Click here to watch the Book Trailer for ‘Two Sons’<

‘Two Sons’ is available now from all major online bookstores, including Silver Wood Books, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, Amazon and on Kindle.

If you would like a copy of ‘Two Sons’ to read, review or feature please contact Kris Barnes of Authoramp, Stewart is also available for interview.

http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00LZX27RK?creativeASIN=B00LZX27RK&linkCode=w01&linkId=YWUO5CW6ZJ46KP2&ref_=as_sl_pc_ss_til&tag=authoramp-21

COMMENTS

1 RESPONSE TO TWO SONS: THE STORY OF TWO FAMILIES DIVIDED BY WAR AND UNITED IN GRIEF

JOHN FISH (THE LAST WORD-BOOK REVIEW) wrote on January 1, 2015 at 2:52 // Reply

2014 marked the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War One. So in December I was asked if I would like to review Two Sons by Stewart Gill Owen. With my interest mainly being Military History I gratefully accepted the book to review.

As a reviewer I must congratulate the author on an outstanding piece of literary work so sensitively handled. Two Sons covers the story of two families. John and Annie Williams are visiting their Sons (Herbert) grave in Flanders Herbert was killed in the battle of Passchendaele in 1917. At the same time Eric and Martina Lehmann are visiting their sons (Kurt) grave Kurt was killed in the same battle.

The two couples meet and when you think of the utter devastation and loss of life, events unfold. This is a remarkable story of two families from the outbreak of war to the 1950’s and having lost so much they fear they may yet have to make further sacrifices as Hitler takes control in Germany and the threat of war looms again. ‘Two Sons, two graves, this is what we share’.

Also in the book the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is highlighted with so many people on both sides who lost so much between 1914 and 1918. An extraordinary book that allows the reader to be a part of the characters and at times you will both laugh and will also want to shed tears. This is also a book that will make you feel better for reading it.

For the work and the detail that the author has put into the book it is simply outstanding.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
“My son was arrested when he was returning from his tuition class. Padhne likene wala ladka hai uska aise bawal se kya kaam (He is a studious boy, he has nothing to do with the incident),” said a woman showing a photo copy of his son’s Aadhaar card to journalists. While the woman waited outside, detainees counted hours seated in the lock-ups inside the police station. His 22-year-old son Akram, standing three feet away, extended his arms to hold his father. A constable standing on guard objected: “Apni jagah raho, kuch nahin hoga inko (Stay at your place, nothing will happen to him).” A little later, a commotion broke out in the courtyard of the police station as some women attempted to go near the lockups with food packets. “My son has not eaten anything since yesterday. A cross-border reunion between families divided by the Korean War is off to a heartwarming start, with families from both North and South Korea meeting for the first... Quote taken from a participant: “We want the two Koreas to be reunified so badly, there would be nothing greater than to live together even for just one minute” pic.twitter.com/UNcoUBMs31. — Pyongyang Psyop (@JuCheGuevara) August 20, 2018. According to Yonhap, many of the participants, chosen from a pool of 57,000 potentials, are in their 70s and older, with less and less of the generation that lived through the war and the divide still living today. Stewart Gill Owen. It’s 1932 and Hitler and the Nazi Party are threatening to take control of Germany. There is a growing fear of another war. Two families from vastly different backgrounds make their way to visit their sons’ war graves in the Flanders region of Belgium. John and Annie Williams are on their annual trip from England in memory of their son, Herbert, who had been killed while fighting at the battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Erich and Martina Lehmann have travelled from Germany to pay their respects to the memory of their son, Kurt who died in the same campaign. During t The divided family is an enduring metaphor for the
divided nation, but it also accurately reflects the reality of America's bloodiest war. The two are in love and want to marry but are thwarted temporarily while their fathers confront one another in war. This leads to both "domestic" and "political" tragedy, as the domestic bliss of the lovers becomes Cite this Item. Little else is revealed about Moonshine, except that slavery separated him from his mother in Virginia; his ability to serve the Union is most important to the story. A little reconnaissance work enables Moonshine to assist Cite this Item. No longer seen as tragic, they emerged from the war and immediate postwar period as something to be celebrated, models of reunion and enduring loyalty rather than hatred and division.