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5 paranormal
romances



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Veterans in Fiction



Portraying
Characters'
Post-Military
Experiences

Fictional veteran characters provide insight into the experiences of those who have served. Stories about them can also function as a platform for addressing important issues affecting veterans and society today.

Who are Veterans?



Not Active Duty

Honorably/Medically Discharged or Retired

Service Connected or NSC

War Era or Peace Time

May or may not utilize VA Services



Army



Navy



Air Force



Marine Corps



Coast Guard



Space Force



National Guard



VA Structure and War Time Eras

VA Structure

VHA, VBA, NCA

War time Eras

World War I - April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

World War II - December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946

Korean Conflict - June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955

Vietnam Era* - August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975

Gulf War - August 2, 1990 - TBD





How many WWI Veterans are still living?
How many WWII Veterans are still living?
How many Viet Nam Veterans are still living?



Fiction featuring veterans can create a window into the realities and complexities of war, while also honoring the sacrifices of those who have served our country

The Ultimate Sacrifice





Families also Serve

Veteran Characters

Romance Novels

Change of Plans by Dylan Newton

Witch Trial Legacy by Katherine Eddinger Smits

Bayou Brotherhood Protectors Series by Elle James



Movies

The Best Years of Our Lives by Sarah Kozloff 1946

Born on the Fourth of July by Ron Kovic 1989

The Hurt Locker by Mark Boal, 2009

Veteran Characters

Protagonist

Mentor, Buddy, Antagonist, or Elder, Warrior, King archetypes

Theme

Loyalty vs. Abandonment, Service vs. Selfishness, Courage vs. Cowardice, Honor vs. Disgrace,
Integrity vs. Dishonesty

Historical Fiction

Plot/Conflict

PTSD, Suicide, Substance Abuse, Homelessness, Relationship Issues,
Government



It's not all doom, gloom, and cemeteries

Veterans tell funny stories and employ dark humor to alleviate tension.



Telling a war vet you understand what he went through
Sometimes saying "Thank you for your service" is a turn-off

Stay away from stock characters and
stereotypes





Veterans in fiction should be portrayed as complex characters with unique perspectives and experiences. These stories can contribute to a broader understanding of the human experience, the themes of our lives, and the impact of war and military service on individuals and society.