

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: November 15, 2016

Music for Love or War.

Burke, Martyn (Author)

Nov 2016. 288 p. Tyrus, paperback, \$16.99. (9781507200919).

As a Hollywood filmmaker and battlefield documentarian, Burke has seen enough of both Tinseltown and war zones to colorfully interweave both here in this tragicomic novel about two soldiers searching for two missing femmes fatales. Danny is a Canadian sharpshooter who enlists for an Afghanistan tour of duty to track down Ariana, a woman he became smitten with in Toronto before she was kidnapped by her Taliban brother. Hank, an American, who recounts this first-person narrative, is searching for Annie “Boo” Boudreau, a former playmate and Hugh Hefner hanger-on. After becoming fast friends in Kandahar and bonding during wartime turmoil, the pair travels on leave to Hollywood, where Danny solicits the advice of a celebrity psychic to divine Ariana’s and Annie’s whereabouts. The story flashes back and forth between Afghanistan’s mountainous regions, where the troops harass the cave-dwelling Taliban with Liberace recordings on loudspeaker, and pop-culture-obsessed Hollywood’s thronged streets and nightclubs. Burke’s intimate familiarity with both milieus yields a vividly rendered and timely tale that readers will find alternately gripping and amusing.

— *Carl Hays*