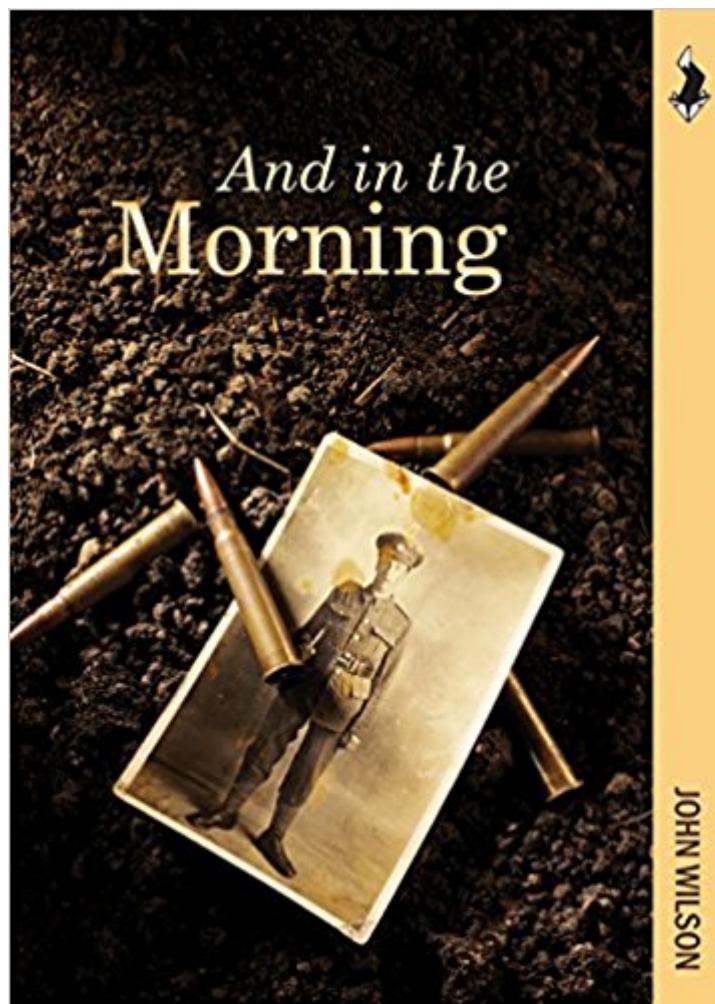


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# And In The Morning: The Somme, 1916 (Fields Of Conflict)



## Synopsis

Fifteen-year-old Jim Hay believes that war is a glorious adventure and cannot wait for his turn to fight. But as his father marches off to battle in August 1914, Jim must be content to record his thoughts and dreams in his journal. All too quickly, however, Jim's life begins to unravel. His father is killed in action, his mother suffers a breakdown, and when Jim does at last join up, it is as much to find refuge as it is to seek glory. In the trenches of France, his romantic views of war are dispelled, and his longing for adventure is replaced by a basic need to survive.

## Book Information

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Grade Level: 9 - 11

## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-Jim Hay, 16, is caught up in the patriotic fervor sweeping across Scotland as the British troops prepare to enter World War I. After his father leaves for France, the teen avidly follows the war news in the local papers and includes headlines and anecdotal clips throughout this diary. His father is killed in action and 10 days later his mother dies from shock and grief. Within weeks, Jim has signed up and is soon in the trenches. His diary entries and letters home to his girlfriend reflect his growing awareness of the horrors of war. Recalling his desire for a German helmet to keep as a souvenir, he somberly notes in his journal, "I think I even wanted one with a bullet-hole in it. It all seems so macabre now. Helmets are not toys-they save lives here." During an offensive attack against the Germans, Jim receives a serious head injury, and, disoriented, wanders away from his unit. He is court-martialed for desertion and executed by firing squad on July 10, 1916. Wilson

brilliantly captures the thoughts, feelings, and naïveté of a young man caught up in a conflict he does not fully understand and is ill prepared to face. The format effectively draws readers into the narrative, and characterization is solid throughout. Historical anecdotes lend even more somber realism to the story. Jim's growth as a human being, his increasing self-awareness, and, especially, his shocking fate are not soon forgotten. A compelling, fascinating, and ultimately disturbing book that is not to be missed. Robert Gray, East Central Regional Library, Cambridge, MN  
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Gr. 8-12. Although this novel focuses on World War I, it's a timely reflection on the realities of war that presents a powerful, timeless anti-war argument. Jim Hay is just shy of 16 when his father enlists in Britain's Highland Light Infantry. To chronicle the war and record his father's exploits, Jim begins a diary, but within weeks he finds himself writing about his father's death in France and his mother's subsequent insanity. Then Jim joins his father's regiment, and he experiences war for himself--in the trenches, on patrol, and in the Battle of the Somme--setting down his own reactions, which range from excitement to horror to guilt, for his sweetheart back home. Mock-ups of newspaper clippings provide background to the events, and the diary form lends immediacy and intimacy to the gripping story, which Wilson has based on actual diaries kept by members of the Highland Light Infantry. A terrific addition to a social studies or history curriculum. Connie Fletcher  
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A young boy named Jim received a very unique and special gift from his great-grandfather Robert Thorpe for his sixteenth birthday. The gift was a diary written by his good friend Jim Hayes, a World War I veteran. These pages tell the story of Jim Hayes in battle and his letters to the love of his life, a woman named Anne. Jim Hayes had new experiences, met new friends and was front and center with war and its bloody life changing attributes. Author John Wilson puts readers in a rare place, the front lines of war. The events, newspaper clippings and such make the character believable. John pulled together many pieces from many lives to provide a realistic point of view for the reader. Parents, teachers and especially boys will enjoy the history found on these pages. The back of the book has acknowledgements, an author Q&A, and questions for discussion.

Based on world war one. Very good book but there were some violent parts for a young child. Also a

sweet romance with Jim and Anne.

And In The MorningIt's the year 1914, and Scotland is at war. Jim Hay is a strapping young lad turning 16, one step closer to joining the army. When his father is killed in action and his mother dies from insanity. He finds that the trenches of France are not the most welcoming places. With a wife at home Jim is desperate to stay alive. His life becomes a fight for survival.I recommend this book to anyone grade seven and up for graphic content. It gives a good idea of what our great grandfathers had to go through during WWI. I liked this book because it was made from letters and dairies from WWI.

John Wilson is the master at writing historical fiction for young adults. "And in the Morning" is no exception. The voice of the character is perfect. So are the details of World War One. And the story is heart-wrenching.

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