A remarkable and very moving account of the loss of his son, a father’s need to understand how and why it happened, and the relationship between a parent and child changed and deepened by war. Whatever your views about the purpose and conduct of the war in Iraq, this book deserves your attention and the acclaim it will surely receive for its heartrending testament to the awful wages of war and the invincible devotion of love.—Senator John McCain

A tribute to the “great conversation” between a father and his son, an Iraq staff sergeant who died in combat. Staff Sergeant Darrell “Skip” Griffin, Jr. was killed in action on March 21, 2007, during his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with Valor for dragging a comrade to safety through enemy gunfire. He was also in the middle of writing a book. Tentatively titled The Great Conversation, it was an attempt to describe and make sense of the destruction he had seen in Iraq. His father, Darrell Griffin, Sr., was going to help him finish writing it when he returned home in July. In the face of Skip’s death, Darrell, Sr. vowed to finish the book himself. He traveled to Iraq, witnessing the war close up and meeting his son’s comrades. Driven by a conviction that Americans do not know enough about the war they have been fighting for the past six years, Last Journey is a first-hand account of everyday life for soldiers in Iraq; it’s also an intimate portrait of a lost son, a meditation on faith, and finally a tribute to the lively philosophical debates the Griffins used to share. Included is email correspondence with Skip during the weeks before he died as well as original photographs from the frontlines. Passionate and inspiring, Last Journey serves as a tragic reminder of the human cost of war. 24 b&w illustrations.

Features:
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My Personal Review:
I bought this book a few weeks ago after seeing it mentioned on CNN. The article about the book seemed compelling enough so I ordered the book the same day. The book reminds us of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. More importantly, it reminds us to keep thinking, questioning and asking why. The book provides great insight to a single soldier, the men and family around him, and the sacrifices they have or are making for what we might just be taking for granted each day. I read the first 250 or
so pages in the first few days after receiving the book. I was pulled into Skip's life and story and his experience as a soldier. When I realized that his death was only about two weeks off, I had to put the book down. I wasn't ready to have him die or have his story end. I can't imagine the loss of a child, husband or brother in this way but as Griffin Jr. and Sr. remind us, it's happening every day. Skip died for me just before my daughter's soccer game started this morning. I cried for Skip and his family today.

Buy this book. Read this book. Think about what Skip and his comrades in arms have said and are doing in the name of freedom.

Darrell Sr. and Diana: Thank you for sharing your family's story so openly and honestly. G-d bless you.

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Last Journey: A Father and Son in Wartime by Darrell Skip Griffin Jr. - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!