The year is 1943 and World War II in the Pacific rages on, with Americans engaged in desperate battles against a cunning enemy. Coast Guard Captain Josh Thurlow is on hand at the invasion of Tarawa, as the U.S. Navy begins the grand strategy of throwing her marines at island after bloody island across the Pacific. But nothing goes as planned as young Americans go up against fanatical defenders, who revel in snipers, big guns, and human wave attacks from which there is no escape save death.

As blood colors the waters around Tarawa, Josh flounders ashore through a floating graveyard of dead men and joins the survivors, determined to somehow wrest victory from disaster. Critically wounded, Josh expects to die. Instead, he is spun off on one of his greatest adventures when Sister Mary Kathleen, a young Irish nun, nurses him back to health, then shanghais Josh, sidekick Bosun Ready O'Neal, and three American marines to a group of beautiful tropical islands invaded by a brutal Japanese warlord. Josh and his little band must decide whether to help the Sister fight the battle she demands, return to Tarawa and the real war, or settle down in the romantic splendor of the South Seas.

Hickam expertly weaves the adventures of these hot-blooded characters tighter and tighter until the Sisters secrets and sins are finally revealed during a horrific battle in the lair of the warlord. With an incredible eye for historical detail and the talent of a master storyteller, Homer Hickam delivers another tour de force.

My Personal Review:
I'm a bit astonished at the one-star reviews this book has received. I just put it down after two days of voracious reading and then looked at it, wishing I could start all over again fresh. Maybe it sometimes gets knocked down because it is not truly a World War II genre book. There is a depth to this book that is layered one upon the other as it progresses. It is the tale not only of Josh Thurlow at the battle of Tarawa but really on
what happens afterwards as Sister Mary Kathleen, the Catholic nun who
shanghais Josh, Ready O'Neil and three vagrant Marines to the Far
Reaches. There, the men find a paradise and even tough old Josh finds
love and tenderness with a new family while the sister keeps struggling
with the great sin that presses down upon her. I found the pages where
Josh loses his new family some of the most powerful writing I have ever
read. I suppose it is true that readers are as various as writers and not all
are meant for one another. Hickam is a writer that seems at time a simple
stylist but he is also an artist who paints with an exceedingly fine brush.
Perhaps his novels are not for everyone but I am captured by his writing
and will recommend him to everyone who not only likes a good read but
also likes to put a book down with a new understanding of the truths of life.
I will be thinking about Sister Mary Kathleen, Josh, Ready, and even
Colonel Monkey Burr for a very long time.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The Far Reaches (Josh Thurlow Series #3) - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!