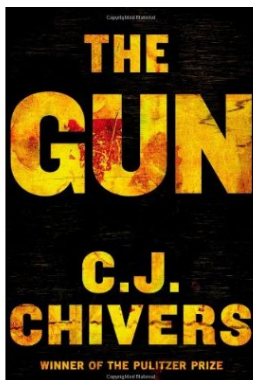


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The website of C.J. Chivers and THE GUN, available at [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Borders](#) and [Books-A-Million](#).

"...magisterial..." --The Atlantic.

"...bold history... ..Mr. Chivers the enthusiast and expert shares the page with Mr. Chivers the historian and journalist — the expert dealing well with the detailed mechanics of his subject, the journalist at other times brilliantly illuminating the book with highly effective vignettes of human courage, ingenuity and, mostly, suffering." --The New York Times.

"...succeeds admirably by putting the gun into its social, historical and technological context in an evocative narrative." --The Washington Post.

"...a compelling perspective on 20th-century warfare..." --Slate.

"Chivers draws links between machines and their cultures very convincingly. The breadth and depth of his strategy is as compelling as it is educational. His book treats guns not just as tactical devices, technological marvels and instruments of death and terror, but as psychological snapshots of the nations that produced them — and monuments to a bloodthirsty, ingenious race that has spent centuries fighting over land, money and God, and won't stop any time soon." --Salon.

"...for disciplined and devoted scholars of the history of modern war, politics, and ideology, and how the automatic weapon has forced the transformation of the essence of combat... ..a colossal effort..."

## Alive Day, Joao Silva.



October 23, 2011 marks [the passing of a year since Joao Silva stepped on a landmine in southern Afghanistan](#), losing both legs and suffering other injuries from which he is still recovering. Please join Joao's family and friends in wishing him well — and a long, full life, the value of which he understands better than most any of us — on his first Alive Day.

Above is a photograph of Joao on Sept. 14, as he shopped for clothes to wear to [his meeting with President Obama at the White House](#). (Joao famously avoided dress clothes until this meeting; the last time I saw him before he was wounded, in Oct. 2010, he was wearing an Incredible Hulk tee-shirt, about to leave for the assignment on which he would almost die.) Below is photograph of the shoes Joao bought on the same trip, moments before he walked into the Oval Office.



After the meeting, Joao went to work. Here is a frame of him photographing Mr. Obama and former [Marine Sergeant Dakota Meyer](#), as he received the Medal of Honor.

...appears to have created a history-laced masterpiece." --Marine Corps Gazette.

"...an absorbing and beautifully written new study... Chivers has no intention of mythologizing this rifle; the development of the gun and its subsequent worldwide use is tellingly set in a longer and wider historical context. The narrative is a critical and intelligent interrogation of a story shrouded in Soviet doublespeak. And the history of this particular weapon becomes, in an important sense, the story of the violence at the heart of the more than sixty years since the gun was first introduced." --The National Interest.

"...exemplary, muscular prose backed up by prodigious research." -- VETERAN magazine.

"...superior history..." --Booklist.

"...eye-opening..." --Kirkus.

"...Chivers tells the AK-47's story as a Tolstoyan epic." -- TIME.

About THE GUN:

An incisive examination of modern conflict and official folly, THE GUN mixes historical research, investigative reporting and battlefield reportage to illuminate the origins of the world's most abundant weapon - the Kalashnikov assault rifle - and the consequences of its spread. THE GUN is more than a rigorous history of a gun. Told through character sketches and reconstructions of battles, and drawing from years of interviews, meticulous archival research, extensive travel and declassified documents revealed for the first time, it is a feat of storytelling that presents a richly human account of an evolution in war. Selected as an Editor's Pick by The New York Times Book Review, a starred review by Library Journal and a Best Book of 2010 by The Atlantic and The Washington Post.

About C.J. Chivers:

A former Marine Corps infantry officer, C.J. Chivers is a senior writer for The New York Times, where he reports for the Foreign and Investigative desks, covering conflict, crime, the arms trade and human rights. He is also a frequent contributor to Esquire. In 2007 he received a National Magazine Award for Reporting and a Michael Kelly Award for the Fearless Pursuit and Expression of Truth for the reconstruction in Esquire of the terrorist siege at a public school in Beslan. In 2009 he shared a Pulitzer Prize for coverage in The Times of combat in Afghanistan. His field



And another.



What none of us knew that day was that Joao was very ill. As he stood with President Obama, as he worked the Medal of Honor ceremony, as he pushed himself through a blur of a day, he was in the grip of a terrible infection. He returned to the hospital the following day, underwent more surgery in the days after, and spent weeks fighting it off.

And now Joao is training for the New York Marathon. In light of what he has been through, and what he still faces, this is a sign of almost inconceivable strength of will.

It's Joao Silva's Alive Day. Let there be 50 more.

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dispatches from Iraq and Afghanistan were selected in 2010 by New York University as being among the Top Ten Works of Journalism of the Decade in the United States.

C.J. Chivers visits with NPR's [Fresh Air](#) in 2010, to talk about THE GUN. And in 2011, [about covering the war in Libya](#).

Read a [POLITICO take](#).

About [www.cjchivers.com](#): This site serves in part as a Reporter's Notebook and in part as a way to follow C.J. Chivers' writing, interviews, readings or public appearances. Within the archive, you'll find press releases, book tour schedules, clips, photographs, blog posts, book jacket images, author photos, and more.

Looking for something else?

Articles, essays, posts and video reports by C.J. Chivers can also be found in The New York Times, Esquire or on the At War blog.

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More on THE GUN:

"...as accessible and compelling to the general reader as it is for the military specialist... ..Chivers's mastery of history and engineering is matched by his mastery of language. For all the detail and technical data, THE GUN is a riveting read." --The Guardian.

"...combines a soldier's experience with a historian's skepticism." -- Bloomberg Business Week.

"...brilliantly conceived..." -- Manhattan Magazine.

"...a fascinating, exhaustive history of the rifle's origins, development and unprecedented influence on the world we live in. Chivers brings experience and impressive research... ..to put the AK-47 into a social, historical and technological context..."

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