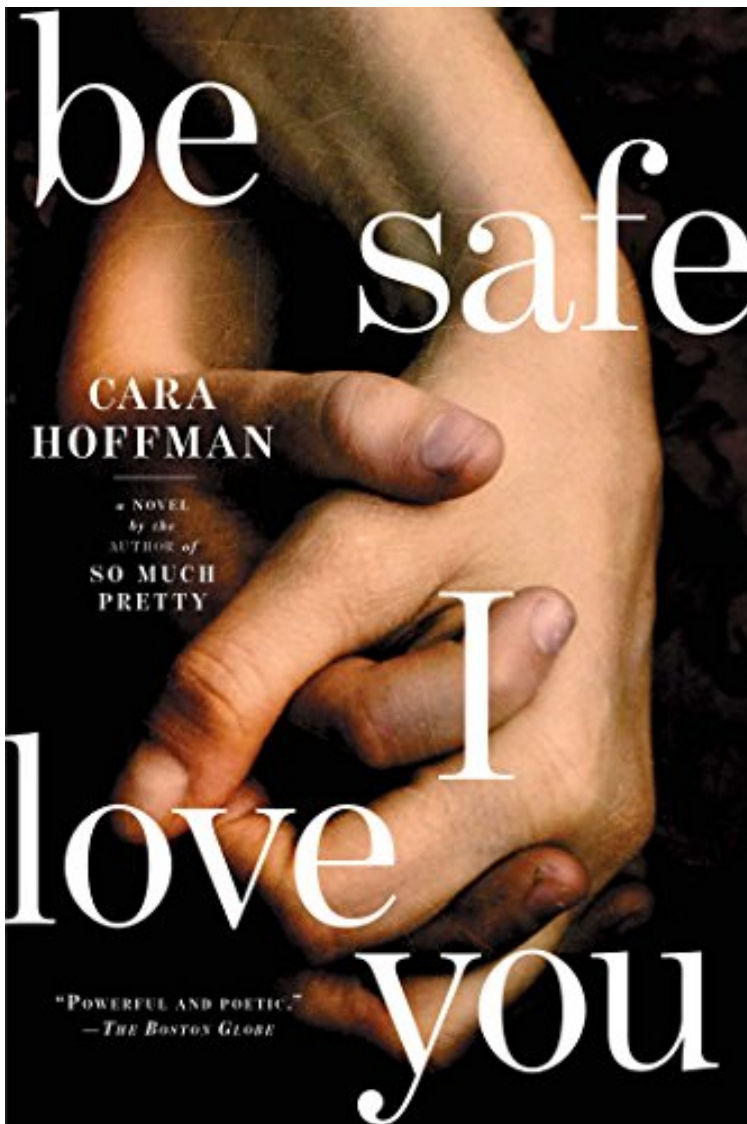


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# Be Safe I Love You: A Novel (English Edition)



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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurThis widely acclaimed novel about a female soldier who returns from Iraq haunted by a tragic mistake is beautifully writtensuspenseful and smart and tender in unexpected moments (Miami Herald) and was named one of the 5 Best in Modern War Fiction by The Sunday Telegraph.Before she enlisted, classically-trained singer Lauren Clay had been accepted to a prestigious music conservatory, but her familys financial demandsworsened by her parents divorce and her fathers declining mental healthpushed her in another direction. Joining the army allowed Lauren to provide for her familiespecially her younger brother Danny, whose quirky, heartfelt letters to her overseas are signed, be safe, I love you. When she arrives home unexpectedly, its clear to her friends and family that something is profoundly wrong with Lauren. But her father is so happy to have her home that he ignores her odd behavior, as well as the

repeated phone calls from an army psychologist. Things seem better when Lauren offers to take Danny on a trip to visit their mother upstate, but instead, she guides them into the glacial woods of Canada on a quest to visit the Jeanne d'Arc Basin, the site of an oil field that has become her strange obsession. What happens there will change Sergeant Lauren Clays family forever, as she must finally face what she saw, and did, in Iraq. *Be Safe I Love You* is a rare, illuminating glimpse into the distinctive experience and psyche of a female vet (Boston Globe); a riveting suspense story and a frank portrayal of wars psychic damage (Ms. Magazine); and a painful exploration of the devastation wrought by combat even when the person returns from war without a scratch this book is a reminder that art and love are all that can keep us from despair (The New York Times Book ).

Revue de presse A finely tuned piece of fiction . . . *Be Safe I Love You* is a painful exploration of the devastation wrought by combat even when the person returns from war without a scratch. The story written with such lucid detail it's hard to believe the main character is an invention suggests the damage starts long before the soldier reports for duty. . . . In crystalline language that conveys both the desolation of the Iraqi desert and the north country of New York State . . . this book is a reminder that art and love are all that can keep us from despair. (Alissa J. Rubin The New York Times Book ) In so many ways, we still think of warfare and soldiering as male endeavors. The plight of the female soldier remains largely out of view in print media, on television news, even in fiction and film. Through Lauren, Cara Hoffmans thoroughly researched and carefully crafted heroine, *Be Safe I Love You* illuminates the distaff side of military service and the ways that life in uniform are at once different and, at times, uncannily similar for men and women. Toward the end of this fine novel, Lauren finds a new life for herself based on her old passions, but Hoffman doesnt give us the sense that shes fully healed. Rather, she is, in her own way, soldiering on, a woman forever changed. . . . She knew now that the difference between never and always was small, Hoffman writes. Never and always are separated by a wasps waist, a small sliver of safety glass, one bead of sweat; separated by the seven seconds it takes to exhale the air from your lungs, to make your body as still as the corpse you are about to create. (The Washington Post) Beautifully written and unflinching in its honesty . . . [*Be Safe I Love You*] is a penetrating social critique: Hoffman paints a vivid and nuanced portrait of post-traumatic stress disorder and raises questions about class divisions (the working class being more directly affected by American warfare than anyone else). . . . A terrific story, suspenseful and smart and tender in unexpected moments, but its also a call to action, a heartfelt demand for us to pay closer attention to the costly fallout of violence. (Miami Herald) For those of us never deployed into active duty, it is difficult to fathom the adrenaline-fueled combination of terror and anger that combat instills. We only see the aftermath, when soldiers return home, forever changed, trying to connect with a world where everyone seems flawed and fragile and uncomprehending. . . . In prose that is both powerful and poetic, Hoffman (So

Much Pretty) paints a searing portrait of PTSD and the disconnect of the returning vet amid the well-meaning but clueless. . . . Even more compelling is the novels rare, illuminating glimpse into the distinctive experience and psyche of a female vet. Hoffman challenges us to imagine how extraordinarily difficult it must be to reconcile the innate protective instincts of the caregiver with a culture of violence and orders to kill. Yet she does that beautifully and poignantly, without destroying our hope for redemption and healing. (The Boston Globe) A riveting suspense story and a frank portrayal of wars psychic damage. (Ms. magazine) Hoffmans second novel is a fierce and nuanced tribute to women warriors. (BBC, 10 Best Books for Spring) It would be a mistake to understand *Be Safe, I Love You* only as a war novel. This is also a book about broken families and class and the impossible choices the working poor are too often forced to make. . . . Deeply moving and gorgeously written raw in some places, tender in others. Laurens vulnerability and torment are elegantly rendered. (Roxane Gay for BuzzFeed) Extremely intense and completely engrossing. . . . *Be Safe I Love You* is one of the best written studies we have of the returning veterans and what they bring with them and what they face. (HuffingtonPost.com) Hoffman dazzled me (and many others) with her 2011 *So Much Pretty* . . . Highly recommend. (Washingtonian.com) A searing, unforgettable, and beautifully written tale about the corrosive effects of war on the psyche, a contemporary version of Tim O'Briens *The Things They Carried* with a female protagonist. (Library Journal (starred review)) Tense and stunning . . . exactly what a war novel should be: not a story about battles and guns and machismo, but a tale of refreshing honesty about the harm war does to us all, women, men and children alike, not only in battle, but at home.

(Helen Benedict The Guardian (UK)) In this story about a female soldier returning from a tour of duty in Iraq, Hoffman (So Much Pretty, 2011) does many things well, including her depictions of sibling dynamics, setting (both upstate New York and Iraq), and the working-class mind-set. But what she does best of all is to capture the symptoms and fallout of PTSD. . . . Hoffman describes in visceral prose the disorientation, guilt,

and shame of returning war vets. A page-turner that also offers impassioned social critique.

(Booklist)Excellent . . . describes the troubled homecoming of U.S. Army Sergeant Lauren Clay to Watertown, N.Y., from a tour of duty in Iraq. . . . Hoffman fills her tight narrative with an ominous sense of imminent violence. . . . [a] haunting page turner. (Publishers Weekly)There are a lot of reasons I loved *Be Safe I Love You*: the complex main character of Lauren, the gorgeous descriptions, the thread of mystery weaving deftly through the story. But most of all I loved it because its a brutal and harsh look at the difficulties of coming home after war, of trying to fit back into an old life, a mold, when you dont fit into your own skin. Its about losing yourself and finding yourself all over again. It is, quite simply, luminous.

(Bookriot.com)Its good to know that a female protagonist doesnt have to be 'nice' in order to be compelling . . . In *Be Safe I Love You*, Hoffman pulls us in brilliantly." (Bookpage.com)*Be Safe I Love You* is an important step into new territory that hopefully will blaze a trail for other writers to follow.

(Bookreporter.com)Every once in awhile a book comes around that takes my breath away. One whose beauty knocks me off my feet, whose gorgeousness I simply cant put into words. Today, that book is *Be Safe I Love You* . . . [Hoffmans] words pack punches at the same time theyre soft and comforting; her narrative ability is remarkable, and readers will find themselves lost in the world she creates.

(SKrishnasbooks.com)Riveting. *Be Safe I Love You* is haunting and rare: the story of a young female soldier returning home, torn between love and rage, unable to recognize who she once was. In lyrical, assured prose, Hoffman probes the ravages of war on the survivors, the power of forgetting, the defiance of love, and the possibility of forgiveness. *Be Safe I Love You* will make your heart race, and then break it.

(Reiko Rizzuto, author of *Hiroshima in the Morning*)A gorgeously written, heart-wrenching novel that explores the damage inflicted upon a veteran of the Iraq war, and the varieties of love that ultimately sustain her. Cara Hoffmans *Be Safe I Love You* is a tour-de-force of literary suspense by a brilliant, fearless writer simply the best book Ive read in ages. (Elizabeth Hand, award-winning author of *Available Dark* and *Generation Loss*)*Be Safe I Love You* isnt just a beautiful and unsparing tale of a soldiers return from the Iraq War, though it is certainly that. It is a reckoning with the moral disaster of that conflict, one that no amount of news and reporting can give us because it requires more than facts. It requires the kind of imaginative transformation Cara Hoffman has accomplished here, turning the story of one young womans journey from working poverty to war and home again into a song of lament for a country that has lost its way. (Adam Haslett, author of *Union Atlantic* and the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-nominated *You Are Not a Stranger Here*)

Cara Hoffman gets it. She gets what war does to soldiers, inside and out, and she gets what they must face when they come home from war. Lauren Clay is a character readers wont forget: determined, admirable, and so loving that even as she goes to hell and back, we are ready to go with her. A riveting novel full of compassion for veterans and those who love them. (Helen Benedict, author of *Sand Queen* and *The Lonely Soldier*)Packs a shocking narrative punch. (The Buffalo News)Hoffmans [skill] is to embed her sleek sentences with weighty, hard-hitting themes, such as family breakdown, class division and PTSD, creating an immensely vivid depiction of life for a female warrior. (The Guardian (UK))A tribute to women soldiers whose plight is rarely discussed. . . a finely crafted and intelligent piece of fiction whose characters feel immediately real and whose problems certainly are for a great many veterans returning home after battle.

(The Daily Mail (UK))"How many books have you read about soldiers? How many of them were about women soldiers? What's that? Zero? Hoffman's book will fill that gap, and if it's anywhere near as terrifying and brilliant as her debut, *So Much Pretty*, I'm sure I'll be raving about it well into 2015." (Jennifer Weiner USA Today)Presentation de l'diteurThis widely acclaimed novel about a female soldier who returns from Iraq haunted by a tragic mistake is beautifully writtensuspenseful and smart and tender in unexpected moments

(Miami Herald) and was named one of the 5 Best in Modern War Fiction by The Sunday Telegraph.Before she enlisted, classically-trained singer Lauren Clay had been accepted to a prestigious music conservatory, but her familys financial demandsworsened by her parents divorce and her fathers declining mental healthpushed her in another direction. Joining the army allowed Lauren to provide for her familiespecially her younger brother Danny, whose quirky, heartfelt letters to her overseas are signed, be safe, I love you.

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