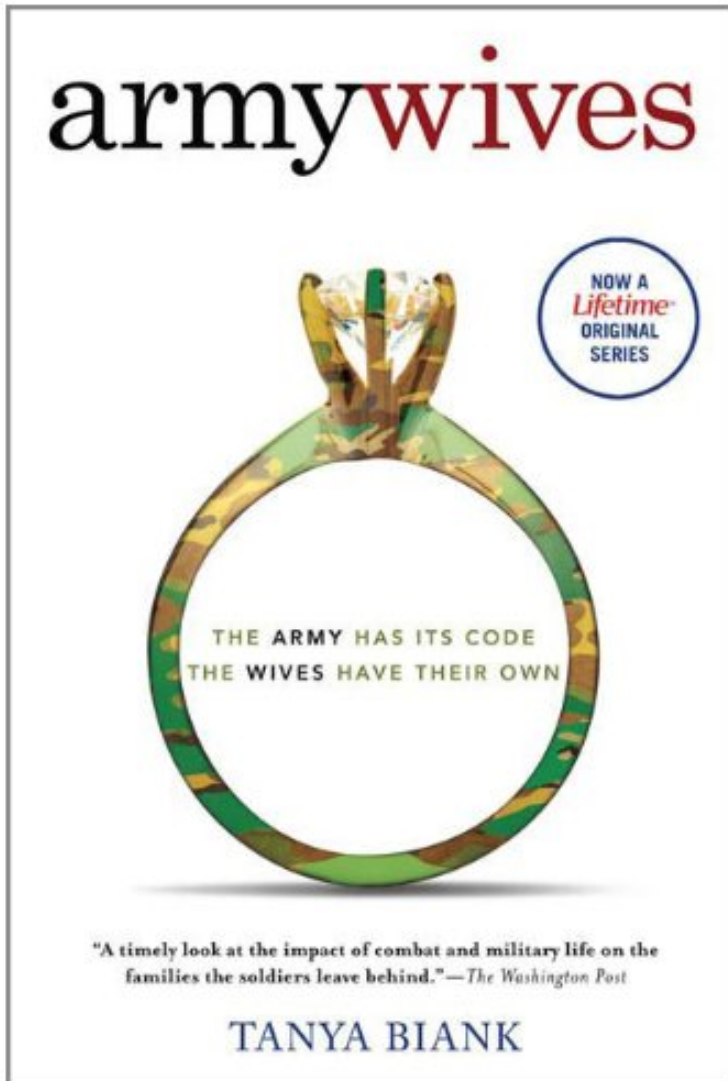


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Army Wives: The Unwritten Code of Military Marriage



Par Tanya Biank
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Description : Description du produitFour Fort Bragg Army wives face hardship, tragedy, betrayal, and their own demons as they try to fulfill the antiquated role the Army expects them to. This is a true story about what happened when real life collided with Army-traditions. Each woman faced a life-altering event that forced her to find an inner compass and forge her own path. Not all succeeded.Under the Sabers explores:What it is like for wives behind the gates to live in a place that is in a constant state of readiness for war.How life+s little tasks-rolling out of bed to walk the dog or going grocery shopping at the post commissary-can affect one+s husband+s career; appearance and performance mean everything, and perception is reality.The fact that class is everything. Army pecking order extends to Army families, too. Officer and enlisted wives swim in separate pools, belong to different organizations, live in different

neighborhoods, and eat at separate clubs -all by design. The common fear of all military wives, regardless of their husbands' ranks: life as a widow. Under the Sabers takes readers into the world of a wife's worst pain.

Prsentation de l'diteurArmy Wives goes beyond the sound bites and photo ops of military life to bring readers into the hearts and homes of today's military wives. Biank tells the story of four typical Army wives who, in a flash, find themselves in extraordinary circumstances that ultimately force them to redefine who they are as women and wives. This is a true story about what happened when real life collided with army convention.Army Wives is a groundbreaking narrative that takes the reader beyond the Army's gates, taking a close look at the other womanthe Army itselfand how its traditions, rules and war-time realities deeply impact marriage and home life.From Publishers WeeklyIn this insider's account of the sometimes-lethal strains that military life puts on families, Biank, an award-winning journalist and the daughter of a career army officer, finds much to admire in military spouses. She follows the lives of four women at Fort Bragg,

N.C., home of the 82nd Airborne Division: the wife of a high-ranking officer who adds luster to her husband's career with her own polish; a senior noncommissioned officer's wife who ambivalently watches her son follow in his father's footsteps; a woman who falls in love with an enlisted man early in his career and struggles with balancing army demands with her own needs; and a former soldier who finds that the counterterrorist operative she married may be just as dangerous to her as he is to terrorists. Though her prose is sometimes clunky and some of the history feels a bit dated, Biank's novelistic sense of detail and suspense vividly demonstrates how "the Army... could bring couples closer together... or it could rip relationships apart." Army wives cope with unpredictable deployments and struggle to raise children alone, often on small paychecks, in a community both tightknit and sharply judgmental. "Army wives serve, too," says Biankin an institution ambivalent about families. She makes sympathetic both their pride and their tragedies. (Feb.)

Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.BooklistThe author of this provocative portrait of modern army wives is herself an army wife and comes from an army family. That combination of experience and insight enhances the value of the book's depiction of the army-family community. Basically, army wives these days are more often than not educated professionals but are expected to function enmeshed in a unique hierarchy very different from anything in civilian life. Moreover, they are far more frequently required to move house and home than civilian wives, and their risk of suddenly becoming widows is constant. For this the army has established support networks, but again, those are sui generis. Overall, Biank furnishes a detailed reminder, if any is needed, that the military is still a hierarchical subculture dominated by male values that imposes a considerable burden on those semi-innocent quasi bystanders, army wives. A good choice for military collections of any size. Frieda MurrayCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved