

## Kipling's Choice (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards))

By Geert Spillebeen

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**Kipling's Choice (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards))** By Geert Spillebeen

As a young man, Rudyard Kipling was devastated when his military application was rejected because of poor eyesight. Although Rudyard would go on to win England's highest accolades, he never got over this lost opportunity to serve his country.

When World War I broke out, John, like his father before him, wanted to fight for his country. When his military application was threatened for the same reason as his father's—poor eyesight—Rudyard took matters into his own hands. Determined not to let history repeat itself, the elder Kipling applied all his influence to get his son a commission.

The teenager who had lived his life in comfort and whose greatest concern had been pleasing his father now faced a much greater challenge—staying alive in his first battle.

Geert Spillebeen's moving fictionalized account follows the true story of John Kipling, a young man whose desire to live up to the family name threatens his very survival. It also draws attention to the senseless suffering and loss of life in this and every war.

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## **Kipling's Choice (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards))** By Geert Spillebeen Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-10. "It is his very first field battle. And his very last as well." First published in Belgium, this fictionalized biography begins as Lt. John Kipling, age 18, lies dying in France in World War I. The narrative contrasts the gruesome details of his personal injuries and the slaughter around him with his glowing memory of how his beloved father, the world-famous writer, used his influence to get the authorities to overlook John's poor eyesight so that he could fight in a glorious adventure for the British Empire against "barbaric Huns." Like Michael Morpurgo's *Private Peaceful* (2004), the power of this story is in the contrast between the war and the home front. The translation is clear and direct, and, without heavy messages, the changing viewpoints reveal the patriotic blather and racism that drove the acclaimed writer to send the boy he loved to die in a war he knew nothing about. The family story is heartfelt--the letters, the memories, and the loss. *Hazel Rochman*

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### Review

"This well-written novel combines facts with speculation about John Kipling's short life and gruesome death. A riveting account of World War I, Kipling's Choice could become the next great war novel." School Library Journal, Starred

"This powerful anti-war novel, amde even more powerful by its roots in a famous author's real life and his evolution from war zealot to embittered, broken father, deaerves a place beside All Quiet on the Western Front." --Kirkus, starred Kirkus Reviews, Starred

"The power of this story is in the contrast between the war and the home front. . . . The changing viewpoints reveal the patriotic blather and racism that drove the acclaimed writer to send the boy he loved to die in a war he knew nothing about." --Booklist Booklist, ALA

"The novel subtly conveys the complexities and ironies of the father/son relationship. Between the lines readers will detect that John desperately needs approval from his father and Rudyard just as desperately wants his son to become what he could never be: a war hero." -- Publishers Weekly Publishers Weekly

### About the Author

Geert Spillebeen lives in Izegem, Belgium, where he is a journalist and radio presenter. This is his first novel published in the United States.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Jamie Arellano:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is

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**John Armstead:**

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book is usually option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled Kipling's Choice (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards)) can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

**Billie Sneed:**

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Kipling's Choice (Bccb Blue Ribbon Fiction Books (Awards)), you may enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

**Floy Knowles:**

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