



## To Be a Friend Is Fatal: The Fight to Save the Iraqis America Left Behind

By KIRK W JOHNSON

SIMON SCHUSTER, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The searing ( The New Yorker ), must read ( The Philadelphia Inquirer ) memoir of one of the few genuine heroes of America s war in Iraq (Dexter Filkins). In January 2005 Kirk Johnson, then twenty-four, arrived in Baghdad as USAID s (US Agency for International Development) only Arabic-speaking American employee. Despite his opposition to the war, Johnson felt called to civic duty and wanted to help rebuild Iraq. Working as the USAID s first reconstruction coordinator in Fallujah, he traversed the city s IED-strewn streets, working alongside idealistic Iraqi translators--young men and women sick of Saddam, filled with Hollywood slang, and enchanted by the idea of a peaceful, democratic Iraq. It was not to be. As sectarian violence escalated, Iraqis employed by the US coalition found themselves subject to a campaign of kidnapping, torture, and assassination. On his first brief vacation, Johnson, swept into what doctors later described as a fugue state, crawled onto the ledge outside his hotel window and plunged off. He would spend the next year in an abyss of depression, surgery, and PTSD--crushed by...



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