



# The Day After He Left for Iraq: A Story of Love, Family, and Reunion

*Melissa Seligman*

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The emotional true story of a family separated by war. We feel for the men and women who are risking their lives at war, but what of the families they've left behind? In gorgeous prose, a military wife describes a year in her family's life—a year in which her husband leaves for war and returns, and prepares again to leave. Melissa Seligman's son is a newborn, and her daughter, a toddler, when her husband ships out to Iraq. Starting with that day, and focusing on the months that follow, she movingly describes the balancing act her life has become: being a loving mother to her young children, with the haunting knowledge that her husband, their father, could be killed at any time. Seligman doesn't hesitate to express her inner pain. She watches her daughter acting out in fury. Then there's her own anger. Ultimately, though, she comes to accept her life and appreciate the strength and determination of her loving children and husband. It's a book to read in one sitting, and to think about for years.

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