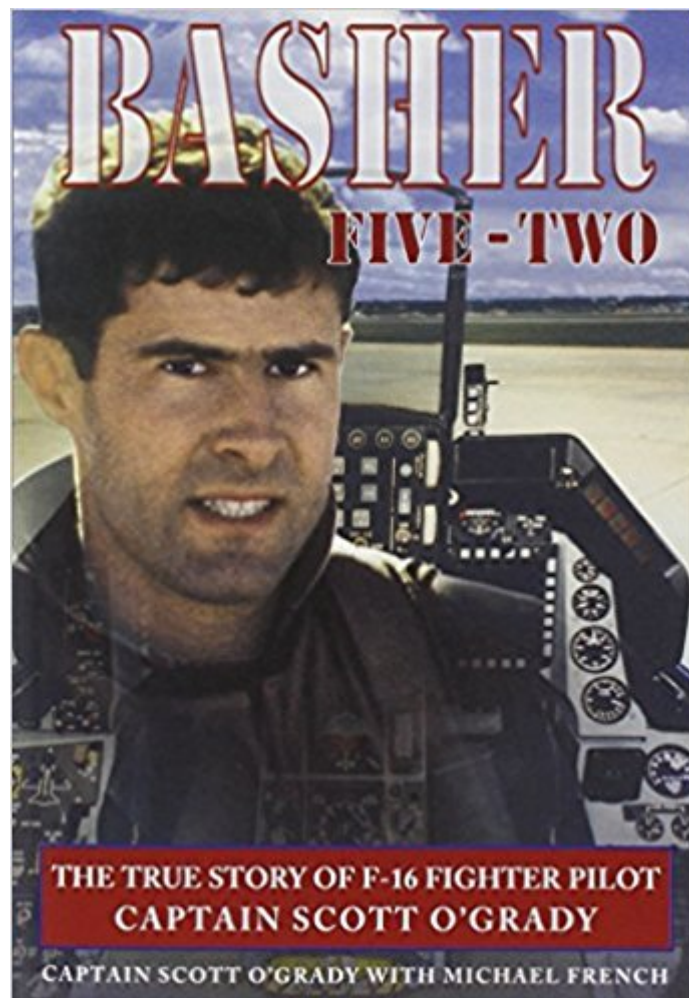




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# Basher Five-Two: The True Story Of F-16 Fighter Pilot Captain Scott O'Grady



## Synopsis

U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady was shot down in his F-16 over Bosnia while helping to keep the peace. The plane exploded, and Captain O'Grady fell 5 miles to the ground below. In exciting detail, Captain O'Grady tells how he evaded capture and how, with little water and no food, he was able to survive on his own in enemy territory.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up. On June 2, 1995, while 29-year-old Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady flew his 47th mission over Bosnia, his F-16 fighter plane was downed by a Serbian land missile. O'Grady relates the events of his six-day, harrowing adventure after parachuting from his disabled plane. Left with minimal supplies and a radio low on battery life, Basher Five-Two (O'Grady's "call sign" for the mission) avoided enemy detection, protected himself from the elements, and subsisted on a diet of leaves, ants, and rainwater. The author effectively communicates not just the details of his miraculous survival, but also how he relied on his love of family and religious faith in dealing with his fear and despair. To create suspense, the narrative is interrupted at the point that the plane is shot down with a chapter that gives details of the soldier's childhood and military training. This break in narrative flow, however, makes it more difficult for younger readers to stay with this inspirational story. Black-and-white photos appear in a 16-page center insert. The memoir ends with a satisfying account of O'Grady's rescue and subsequent treatment as a national hero, even though he claims, "I wasn't really a hero...I was a survivor."?Jack Forman, Mesa College Library, San DiegoCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6<sup>^</sup>-10. "The Great American Celebrity Machine wanted to make me a hero. As I'd tried to explain to so many people, I wasn't really a hero, I was a survivor." O'Grady, who miraculously survived six days in enemy territory after his F-16 was shot down, returned to find a nation fascinated with his adventure. In minute detail, O'Grady, with help from French, tells his amazing story, from his parachute drop and endeavors to evade hostile Bosnian Serbs to sustaining himself by eating ants and drinking water from rain-soaked socks. Although it must have been tempting to sensationalize the fascinating events, this title is a model of restraint, and with relevant aspects of O'Grady's childhood and military training interspersed throughout the book, readers get a clear sense of O'Grady's strength of character and will to survive. A great hook for reluctant readers. Lauren Peterson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Always amazing - and inspirational - to see what humans will do to preserve life. Great account by Scott O'Grady of his experience behind enemy lines when his F-16 was blown out from beneath him over Bosnia.

My son is a 7th grader and needed a non-fiction book for a common core standards book report. This engaged him (and my husband) and they both couldn't put it down. I would highly recommend this book and I'm glad our friend recommended it to us.

The book provides the true story, the real things that happened, and these things would have made a better movie than the one that is supposedly based on Scott O'Grady's experience. I'm glad I looked him up and found his book. It's a wonderful read with chilling suspense and heart warming events that make me proud of the training and dedication of our armed forces. The rescue effort reached to the highest ranks, had the backing of Nato, and involved quite a large group of military people and aircraft. They risked their own lives to make sure his was saved. When he boards the rescue helicopter and looks around at the men sent to find him, they are all just kids looking back at him. It was heart-warming.

My students eat this book! They love to read this biography because Scott's experience is interesting to them. I live in Bremerton, WA where there is a Navy Base, and a Submarine Base. Many of my students who have military parents are keely interested in this book.

This was a gift to my husband who loves airplanes & wanted to fly long ago, but circumstances prevented that. He could hardly put the book down! Really enjoyed Scott's blow-by-blow accounts of the working of his plane and his experience. Was a good gift! Thank you!

A great read. To survive on a diet of leaves, grass and ants is amazing. Scott O'Grady gave an excellent description of the F-16 and how it works. It's refreshing to read about someone who is proud of his country instead of the endless whining of late.

An easy read that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Well written and documented. Another reason our government should stop sending our soldiers into another nation's internal conflicts!

The survival and evasion of the Bosnian Serbs by Captain Scott O'Grady is an inspiring story. Although it is short, it details all of the difficulties of surviving in enemy territory after having a plane blast out from under you. Defying great odds of death, capture, and moral defeat, O'Grady recounts his legendary and awe-inspiring true story. I would recommend this to all who enjoy reading a to-the-point book of true stories and how they really happened. It is not as extremely intense as the loosely related movie "Behind Enemy Lines" portrays, but it is still an amazing feat.

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