

OUTRIDER

SOLDIER. FATHER. SURVIVOR.



MARK
WALES

READING NOTES

OUTRIDER

BLURB

Jack Dunne will do anything to save his son.

A violent civil war. An unstoppable enemy. One road to freedom.

In the wake of a global conflict, foreign forces occupy part of Australia, quashing all but a few pockets of local resistance. The tense stalemate ends in 2034, when Jack Dunne reignites the war.

Dunne is an Outrider, one of the last elite special operations soldiers in the Resistance. As the enemy prepare to eliminate the freedom fighters once and for all, he is tasked with his final mission.

If Dunne and his eleven-year-old son achieve the impossible, and survive, they'll secure their future across the border in Free Australia.

But the road to victory will be bloody.

A cinematic action-thriller from bestselling author and veteran Mark Wales. Explosive and exhilarating, *Outrider* is a heartfelt father-and-son story of survival, resistance and hope.

ABOUT MARK WALES

Mark Wales grew up in Western Australian mining towns and decided early that he wanted to join Australian Special Forces. He embarked on a career that would eventually lead him to Afghanistan. There, as a troop commander in charge of 30 elite soldiers, Mark led combat missions deep behind enemy lines.

Today he is an accomplished corporate speaker, reality TV star, actor, and CEO and founder of a tough luxury fashion label. He appeared in George Miller's Mad Max film *Furiosa*.

In 2021 Mark published his memoir *Survivor*, a national bestseller. *Outrider* is his first novel. He lives in Melbourne and Perth with his wife Samantha Gash and their son.

QUESTIONS

1. The Moral Complexity of Resistance:

How does the book explore the themes of morality and survival within the context of a resistance movement? Consider the characters' decisions and the justifications they provide for their actions.

2. Character Development and Relationships:

How do the main characters evolve throughout the story? Discuss the dynamics of Jack's relationships with other key characters (e.g. Harry, Constance and Dyson) and how these relationships impact their personal growth and the plot.

3. The Role of Technology and Intelligence in Guerrilla Warfare:

Evaluate the depiction of technology and intelligence in the Resistance's strategies. What commentary does the book provide on modern (and future) warfare and espionage?

4. Symbolism and Setting:

The story is rich in vivid descriptions of settings and uses symbolism (e.g. the pub, the MCG, the military uniforms). Discuss how these elements contribute to the atmosphere of the book and what they symbolise about the world these characters inhabit.

5. Historical and Political Undertones:

Considering the quotations from Henry Kissinger and Sun Tzu at the beginning of the book, discuss how the story reflects on historical conflicts and political strategies. How does the narrative engage with real-world geopolitical themes?

6. The Psychological Impact of War:

How does the book address the psychological effects of living through a resistance or war? Consider the characters' behaviours, coping mechanisms and emotional responses.

7. The Importance of Community and Solidarity:

Discuss the various communities depicted in the book (e.g. the Resistance fighters, the Cranbourne Boys) and their importance for survival and resilience. How does community act as a form of resistance in itself?

8. Ethics and Warfare:

How does the book confront ethical questions surrounding warfare, particularly the use of violence by resistance movements? Are there any moments where characters face moral dilemmas, and how do they resolve them?

9. The Influence of Experience and History on Leadership:

Characters like Dyson and Jack show leadership qualities informed by their knowledge and experiences. How does the book suggest experience and historical knowledge impact leadership and decision-making in times of crisis?

10. The Significance of Family and Memory:

With references to dedications and Jack's memories, discuss how the concept of family influences characters' motivations and actions. How do memories of the past impact their present actions and decisions?

11. Survival Versus Humanity:

Between survival tactics and the preservation of human dignity, where does the book draw the line? Discuss instances where characters had to choose between their humanity and their survival.

12. Future Prospects and Resolution:

Based on the unfolding events and the book's ending, what future do you envision for the characters and the resistance movement? Do you think there is an underlying message of hope, despair or realism?