



The Praetorians (Penguin Classics)

Jean Larteguy

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Jean Lartéguy's unflinching sequel to *The Centurions*, a searing novel of modern warfare admired by military experts, with a foreword by General Stanley McChrystal

Based on the events of May 1958 in France and Algeria, *The Praetorians* picks up in the footsteps of *The Centurions*, which was called “a stunning reflection of modern war” by Stanley McChrystal. After turning to tactics of guerilla warfare, a group of French paratroopers serving in the Algerian War is called to answer for actions they consider necessary, however immoral. Fearing another loss of French honor, they plot a coup that results in the return to power of Charles de Gaulle and the death of one of their own. With resonance to modern conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, *The Praetorians* further develops some of Lartéguy’s most persistent and pertinent themes: counterinsurgency, the ugly, morally conflicted nature of modern war, and the seemingly unbridgeable gulf between the experiences of soldiers and of the civilians they serve.

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