The Fiction Shelf
Midwest Book Review

Our Desperate Hour
John F. Andrews
46 North Publications
979-8989383580, $28.99, HC, 378pp

Synopsis: Ab Johnson has one last chance to reconcile with his son, Jack, a marine second lieutenant who is heading into the worst conflict in human history. Second lieutenants don't last long in the killing fields of France.

Ab volunteered to rejoin the army and come to France for a liaison job far from the fighting, only to be transferred to the Paris Medical Group. Ab's quest leads him from the backrooms of Paris, through command posts, and to the front lines during the Battle of Belleau Wood. He confronts French petulance and American inexperience as he struggles to help organize an army medical system swamped with casualties during his desperate search.

Ab's story intertwines with three others: an arrogant surgeon who sees war as opportunity; a navy corpsman searching for his place in the world; and a marine private full of fighting spirit and patriotism. They confront their destinies in a grueling fight filled with chaos and heart-stopping fear. Each joined the war effort for his own reasons -- now all they hope for is to survive.

Critique: Enhanced for the reader's benefit by the historical research of John F. Andrews in the process of writing his 'Novels of the Great War', "Our Desperate Hour" is a simply fascinating and skillfully written story that brings the reader into a yesteryear of World War I and its impact on the lives of the men who fought across the battle fields of France. A gem of historical fiction that is an exceptional and highly recommended acquisition selection for community library 20th Century Historical Fiction and World War I themed fiction collections, it should be noted for the personal reading lists that this hardcover editioin of "Our Desperate Hour" from 46 North Publications is also available in paperback (979-8989383573, $18.99) and in a digital book format (Kindle, $7.99).

Editorial Note: John F. Andrews (https://johnfrederickandrews.com/) is the award-winning author of the 'Novels of the Great War Series' which includes "Our Desperate Hour", "An American Nurse in Paris", and "Dogs Don't Cry". Andrews writes from the perspective of a service family member and critical care physician to craft unique historical stories based on real events. His characters struggle along side some of the real heroes of WWI, as well as showing the plight of civilians caught in one of the most horrible conflicts in human history. His novels are stories of struggle, survival, hope, resilience, and love.