

TAILSPIN

After 75 years, the story of the WWII tail gunner who fell four miles without a parachute and LIVED is finally being told.

Tailspin tells the story of Gene Moran, the Wisconsin farm boy who fought in history's greatest aerial conflict and survived a four-mile fall without a parachute. But after his capture by the Germans, his ordeal was just beginning.

"An extraordinary, moving account of survival and endurance . . . Moran's survival is a cinematically grand story, bigger than life but not fantastical, dramatically gripping as well as emotionally stirring . . ."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

"A riveting read! A tribute to one's survival instincts, the Midwest work ethic, community support, and family courageousness and values. Reinforces the cruelty of war and cancer—and the will to overcome! *Tailspin* leaves us wanting more from this emerging writer."

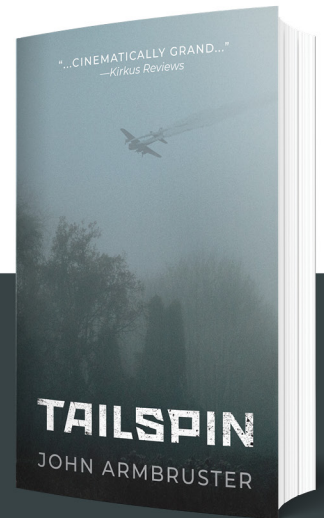
—Gene A. Weber, U.S. Army, 1968-70, Vietnam

"What you're left with at the end of this incredible reading experience is a richer appreciation of all the ways we're connected in our suffering—and the everyday courage it takes to fight, heal, and soldier on."

—Mark Rader, author of *The Wanting Life*

Tailspin is much more than an incredible war story. It's a compassionate portrait of an aging veteran finally revealing the traumatic memories he kept inside for more than sixty years. It's also the story of the author's own trial: raising two young sons as he lost his wife to cancer, all while trying to tell Gene's story before it was too late.

Tailspin is a heartwarming testament to enduring the worst that history and life can deal to ordinary men and coming out on top.



John earned a journalism degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1989. He began his career writing environmental science stories for a public radio program called “Earthwatch Radio.” He later wrote for two Wisconsin newspapers working as a general assignment reporter for the *La Crosse Tribune* and as a sports writer for the *Marshfield News-Herald*.

John earned a master's in education from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Since 1993, John has taught high school and middle school history courses, including Advanced Placement U.S. and European history. John features World War II in both grade levels.

John lives on a small farm outside of Viroqua, Wisconsin, with his two sons. His late wife, Carmen, also a dear friend of Gene, died in 2012 after a long fight with breast cancer.

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