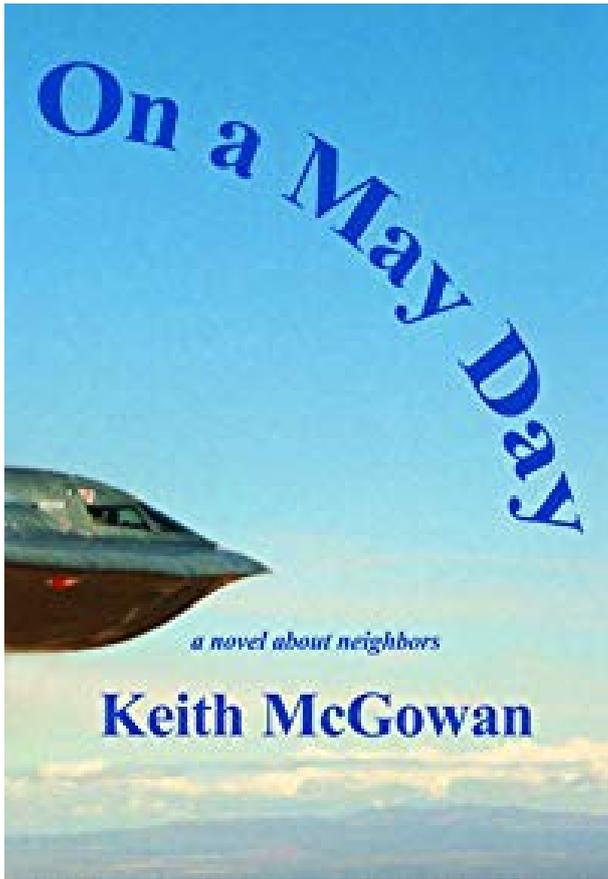


# On a May Day



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Kosovo, May 1999. Concerned about ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, the European community and the United States have authorized NATO to launch Operation Allied Force.

Through a series of coordinated air attacks using the most sophisticated (and expensive) airplanes available, NATO hopes to convince the Serbs to stop their genocidal attacks on the Kosovars. Mission Commander Colonel Robert Duke and his pilot have been tasked with flying a B-2 Stealth bomber from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to attack Serb targets on the other side of the world. After completing their mission, they will have a fifteen-hour commute back to their families waiting for them in their suburban homes. On the ground in Serbia, Zarko Petrovic seeks retribution for the injustices that he believes his family has suffered at the hands of the Kosovars and the Americans. After watching her brother brutally murdered, ten-year-old Martina Prishtina flees with nowhere to go. Confronted with Serb brutality, Mehmet abandons his pacifism and joins his fellow Kosovars in fighting for a free and independent country.

Desperate to stop the violence destroying both his country and his religion, a Serb priest attempts to resolve the conflict peacefully with a wildly unorthodox scheme of his own making. When Duke unexpectedly finds himself stranded amidst violent ethnic hatred, he is baffled by the strange cultural beliefs that led to the conflict. Back at home, his wife and daughters must resolve their own conflict with a neighbor while hoping

and praying for Duke's safe return.

In a novel based on the actual events of Operation Allied Force, author Keith McGowan explores the ramifications of intervening in foreign conflicts for humanitarian purposes with little to no understanding of their origins. Flashing from one side of the world to the other, hope struggles to overcome vengeance in a tale of survival as days on the calendar flick by *On a May Day*.