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Author **Simon R. Biggam**  
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*I have to go home.*

September 1944. Operation Dragoon, the Allied invasion of southern France, reaches its conclusion. German forces are being pushed back from north and south and the Red Army is close to the German border in the east.

Three German soldiers desert and head home. Facing Allied forces, French resistance fighters, the revenge of the Russians and the certainty they will be hanged by their own side if caught, they endure threats, torments and brutality.

*The First Day* is a gripping and harrowing account of three men's long journey through war-torn Europe, during the 'forgotten D-Day campaign', as Operation Dragoon became known. With the same mesmerising psychological insight he brought to bear in his debut novel, *These Are Only Words*, Simon Biggam tells a powerful story of determination and despair, of courage and cowardice but, above all, of the endurance of the human spirit.

## Author information

**Simon R. Biggam** worked in bookselling for nine years before moving into the performing arts sector. He is the founder of the Heretic Theatre Company and director of acclaimed productions, including *The Woman Who Cooked Her Husband* and *Someone To Watch Over Me*. *The First Day* is his second novel. His first, *These Are Only Words* was published by CHROMA in 2006 and shortlisted for the Saltire Society Scottish First Book of the Year Award. Simon lives in Glasgow.