

# PROLOGUE

Part of him died in Iraq. The experience shrunk him. It killed his aura of innocence. It sapped his exuberance. It ended his quest to make the world a better place than it was when he became part of it.

I knew we had lost the best of Adams when he coldly described to me what happened in Samarra—two weeks before he left Iraq, six weeks after his friends were assassinated in Mosul.

Mosul and Samarra channeled his slide into the Waters of Lethe. Because both events occurred months after the national news media had packed up and left Iraq, and weeks before America's military presence

there evaporated, we heard nothing about them. Our fickle attention had turned to other places in the world and more pressing matters back in the States.

\*

...