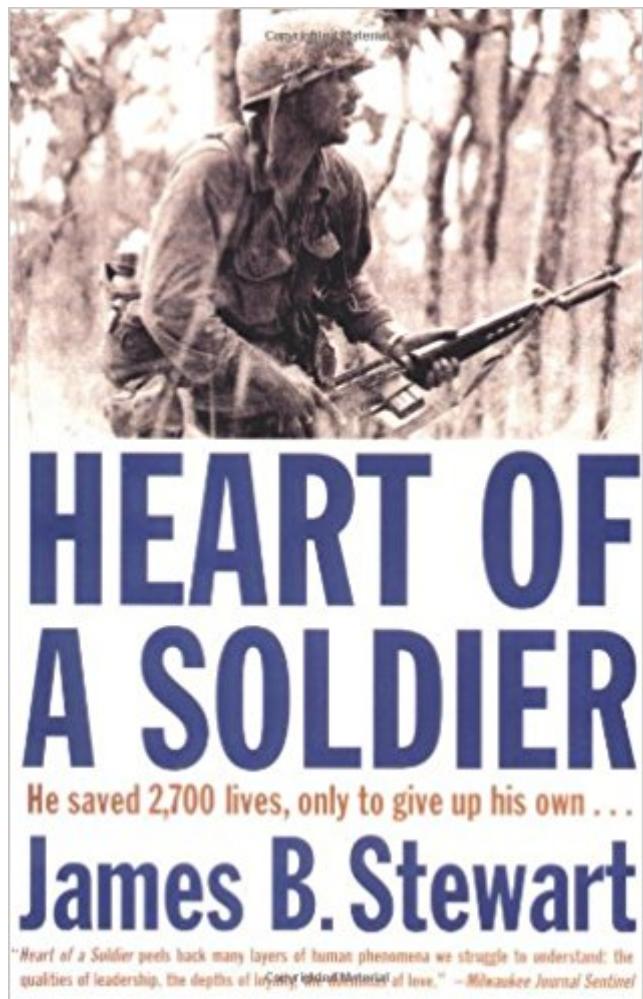


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Heart Of A Soldier



Synopsis

From Pulitzer Prize winner James B. Stewart comes the extraordinary story of American hero Rick Rescorla, Morgan Stanley security director and a veteran of Vietnam and the British colonial wars in Rhodesia, who lost his life on September 11. Heart of a Soldier is the extraordinary story of war, love and comradeship, danger and heroism, told by a Pulitzer Prize winner who is one of our finest writers. When Rick Rescorla got home from Vietnam, he tried to put combat and death behind him, but he never could entirely. From the day he joined the British Army to fight a colonial war in Rhodesia, where he met American Special Forces™ officer Dan Hill who would become his best friend, to the day he fell in love with Susan, everything in his remarkable life was preparing him for an act of generosity that would transcend all that went before. Heart of a Soldier is a story of bravery under fire, of loyalty to one's comrades, of the miracle of finding happiness late in life. Everything about Rick's life came together on September 11. In charge of security for Morgan Stanley, he successfully got all its 2,700 men and women out of the south tower of the World Trade Center. Then, thinking perhaps of soldiers he'd held as they died, as well as the woman he loved, he went back one last time to search for stragglers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author Stewart (Den of Thieves) aims to capture the enormity of the World Trade Center attack by retracing one of the lives lost in the disaster: that of Rick Rescorla, head of security for Morgan Stanley. From the late 1980s on, Rescorla tried to warn Port Authority officials that the World Trade Center was an easy target for terrorists. On September

11, after safely evacuating the Morgan Stanley offices in the south tower (he kept people calm by singing into his megaphone), Rescorla went back into the building minutes before it collapsed to search for stragglers. This wasn't his first selfless act of bravery: a Vietnam veteran, Rescorla won a Silver Star and other medals for his role in the Ia Drang valley an important American victory, but one whose devastating losses turned Rescorla against the war. Piecing together the recollections of, among others, Rescorla's widow, Susan, his best friend and fellow soldier, Daniel Hill, to narrate Rescorla's life story, Stewart also weaves in Susan's, and describes the Rescorlas' blissful mid-life relationship, a second marriage for both. Stewart's narrative is fast-paced, fluid and impressively detailed, though not without cliches. It's an absorbing and at times inspiring profile in courage, yet the book has the feel of an extended magazine piece. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Heart of a Soldier peels back many layers of human phenomena we struggle to understand: the qualities of leadership, the depths of loyalty, the dilemmas of love. (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel) The best nonfiction book of 2002. (Time) Engaging and illuminating. (Jonathan Yardley The Washington Post Book World) Humming with tension, foreign adventure, and the clash of arms, Heart of a Soldier has all the ingredients of an Indiana Jones movie. (The Baltimore Sun)

I am profoundly thankful for this book because it memorializes and, in so far as possible, explains Rick Rescorla -- Colonel Rescorla, Managing Director of Security of Morgan Stanley Mr. Rescorla, whose last battle saved thousands of lives and who might have saved his own for a little longer -- if he hadn't gone back into the falling Tower for the rest of them. I've spent over 25 years in two industries: Wall Street and writing fiction. I was in a meeting on 9/11 when a fireman's wife who was a secretary to one of our managing directors in midtown came running in with the news that the first 747 had crashed into World Trade. "There are 3500 people at Morgan Stanley," said one man. We had no idea what to do: we finished the meeting and came out to find that the second tower had fallen, and we were being evacuated from our midtown office. I read the New Yorker article and realized that Rescorla was known to me by reputation: the man who shut down the trading desk at Morgan to drill people in evacuation after the first attack in 1993; the young soldier on the cover of my copy of WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG..., the OCS candidate who, like my father, had trained at Fort Benning; a quiet legend throughout Wall Street. This book is concise, covers a great deal of time and territory and brings out other heroes such as Dan Hill and Susan Rescorla, whose endurance reminds us that they are heroes "who only stand and wait." This book answered

the questions I had not thought to ask in my thankfulness that there WAS a Rick Rescorla when we needed him most.

This is a grand story of a man who followed many trails in his life. That life ended on 911. He warned citizens and military after the 1st attack on Twin Towers that another breach would definitely occur and that Americans who chose to ignore it would die or watch others die. Rick Rescorla was on point but ignored, essentially. He was employed by Morgan Stanley as chief of security. He drilled all employees in exiting the South Tower and held regular evacuation drills. No one wants to believe it can happen in their workplace, but Rick's gut told him it would. With bull horn in hand, he trained employees what to expect and safe procedures. He is credited with saving 2700 Morgan Stanley staffers lives on that sad day. He went back in one more time. Well written testament to American will and courage. My husband read it, too. I feel it could be a benefit to history classes across the nation. Rick was rough around the edges, life made him so. He saved so many families anguish by his thoroughness. I heartily recommend this book!

Heart of a Soldier should be required reading for college students studying U.S history & I suggest even 12th grade U.S history classes. Why? Here's his Wiki -

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Rescorla We now live in an age where our World's enemies don't usually have a country that they're fighting for; they fight for a religious ideology that justifies the harsh treatment of women as objects with NO rights, the use/abuse of children as if they are dispensable. The scariest part about all of this is that this just the tip of the iceberg regarding Islamic terror. On a daily basis there are absolutely horrific atrocities committed toward the innocent and peaceful people living in the Middle East. I understand our countries hesitancy to intervene in the Middle East again, however, we cannot leave our allies hanging out to dry nor can we allow those in positions of power to abuse that power in an attempt to take out smaller European countries like Israel Jordan the UAE, etc.. It would only take one maybe two Nuclear and/or Atom bombs to wipe a smaller country off of the earth. This is a fantastically written book and an even more touching story about a man who constantly did his best to protect others and those who could not protect themselves, not to mention the 2500+ people he saved on 9/11/2001. I bought a paperback for my best friend to read and I ordered a hard copy for myself because this is a book I will read multiple times, again. My father recommended this book to me in 2003.

Great story, about a man who was a hero in both the Vietnam war and again during the crisis of

9-11. As a Vietnam vet, I would have been proud to serve with this leader. This book needed to be written, to acknowledge what a difference this man made in saving others. The last words to his wife from the Tower were heartbreaking.

- hero of the battle of Ia Drang, as popularized in the movie 'We Were Soldiers'...and he was originally featured on the cover of the book 'We Were Soldiers Once...and Young' before that clown Mel Gibson got emblazoned on it- his statue is in the front of the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, a place of exceptional honor- he correctly predicted the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center- he correctly predicted the 9/11 attack, on video in 1998, indicating that we were vulnerable to an airplane being used as an improvised weapon- and the greatest feat of all...as head of security at Morgan Stanley, made the employees rehearse emergency evacuations, resulting in the saving of thousands of lives - only a handful did not make it out, including Rick Rescorla, who went back in one more time to check for others...what a hero!

According to , I bought this item 5 years ago. Actually that was much later as previously I purchased multiple copies and gave them away. One copy went to friend and was regifted to his deployed Army Ranger son. It was perceived by father and son to be one of the most important books that either had ever read. I wholeheartedly agreed. Recently, I passed by only copy to my friend, he being a Vietnam vet, I knew he would appreciate the story. After a visit he returned home to the great state of Maine. A month or so later he called me midday to tell me he just finished the book and it was the best story he ever read. Two months later he called to say that he would return my copy soon, he had given it to his Doctor at the VA, who ordered a dozen copies for his patients to read. I cried again.

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