



Among the Heroes

Jere Longman

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Of the four horrific hijackings on September 11, Flight 93 resonates as one of epic resistance. At a time when the United States appeared defenseless against an unfamiliar foe, the gallant passengers and crew of Flight 93 provided for many Americans a measure of victory in the midst of unthinkable defeat. Together, they seemingly accomplished what all the security guards and soldiers, military pilots and government officials, could not -- they thwarted the terrorists, sacrificing their own lives so that others might live.

The culmination of hundreds of interviews with family members and months of investigation, *Among the Heroes* is the definitive story of the courageous men and women aboard Flight 93, and of the day that forever changed the way Americans view the world and themselves.

Among the Heroes Details

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From Reader Review Among the Heroes for online ebook

Dee says

Four stars for a most eloquent and detailed book regarding the lives of these American Heroes. A must read if you want to know who they were rather than see their numbers as a statistic.

Vicki G says

I'm not going to rate this book bc I know someone whose husband died on Flight 93 and I know someone who lost his life to the flames or smoke (it doesn't matter which it was, dead is still dead) inside Tower 1, the first building attacked.

I've never been that thrilled that people decided to set aside two groups of those who died, rescue workers and those attached to Flight 93, and called them heroic while implying through what they didn't say that nobody else who was killed was a hero that day.

That doesn't bother me out of "jealousy" but is due to a specific event. After I met a person who was supposed to be helping me (he worked for 9/11 Mental Health Services on their helpline) told me that when people in the Towers died "the way it happened was so embarrassing God didn't let them into heaven when they got to the other side." He didn't think it about rescue workers or people on Flight 93, only the ones who worked in the Towers, at the Pentagon & on the 3 other planes who "didn't do anything to save themselves" which is what he believed would've embarrassed God so much.

Since then I've been even less interested in the hero worship (which is what I believe people do) of rescue workers and the people on Flight 93. Even if God were embarrassed (and I don't know if he is) I think it's ridiculously insensitive to tell the person's family about it, especially when your task is to comfort 9/11 family and friends but oh well. I'm just saying how I feel about it, and I am a little upset about it. I don't even know how the hell they KNOW he wasn't a hero. They weren't WITH him in his last moments, and I don't think he ever DID learn what had happened. He thought an accident had occurred of something blowing up. Well he was half right anyway. Something blew up all right.

Diane G. Murray says

Grabs your attention

Sobering reminder of all the individuals who perished in Flight 93 hard to read, hard to put down. 9-11 saw many incredible events and this is the strangest one that indeed appeared to have heroic resistance from the passengers.

Jill says

Most of the books about 9/11 focus primarily on the destruction of the World Trade Center towers with a nod to the Pentagon and United 93 which crashed into a field outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This book focuses on United 93 and gives us some insight into the lives and characters of each of the passengers as well

as providing a timeline of the events leading up to the crash. It is a book well worth reading if for no other reason than I think we sometimes tend to think of the casualties of that day in terms of numbers rather than human beings. Each of these people were people, people with families, jobs ... lives. The author's research for this book came primarily from personal interviews with friends and family members of the passengers and crew. The only criticism I have is that on occasion there was a bit more mundane detail than I would have liked, but overall I thought the author did an excellent job in bringing these heroes to life in a short (273 pages) book. I recommend it to anybody who, like myself, seeks to know everything possible about the people and events of a day that is burned into our memories.

Gerry says

September 11 is a date etched into almost everybody's memory and although a lot of the attention is quite rightly focussed on the destruction of the World Trade Centre and the attack on the Pentagon, Flight 93 also played a major part in the day's drama.

Hijacked by four, or some think three, terrorists the plane was flown off route, probably intended to fly to Washington to attack the White House. The valiant passengers and crew had other ideas and fought back as best they could with the result that the plane eventually crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania with no loss of life on the ground. And while the drama was unfolding the passengers would have known that this was to be their fate, so how they handled it is nothing short of marvellous.

Jere Longman spent many hours studying transcripts of tapes and conducting interviews with the relatives of the deceased and the result is a sympathetically written, but absolutely heart-rending, account of the events as they unfolded. Of course, no one knows exactly what happened on board the aircraft but the many telephone calls that were made to dependants and the recorded accounts from the flight deck do leave pointers.

The author traces every passenger and crew member and relates how they eventually ended up on Flight 93 - and some of them had other options but found themselves there - and also speaks with almost all the relatives to hear their accounts of the tragedy.

Amazingly many of the relatives had bad jibes about the flight well in advance and some even tried to persuade their partners, wives, husbands, children, friends to change their flight. Sadly for the 40 people, excluding the terrorists, who were killed they didn't do so.

When reading the book, just make sure that plenty of tissues are handy, they will be needed for this heroic tale.

Brandee says

I worked for a family that had a member on this flight and a part of the book is about her, so I was excited to read it because I felt like I had some what of a personal connection. The beginning of the book was interesting but after that I found myself skipping through most of the book and only reading a few sentences. I was very disappointed in this book. Others may read it and cry from start to finish.

chucklesthescot says

This was a decent read, taking in the details of the events of 9/11 involving United Flight 93, whose brave passengers tackled the terrorists in a heroic attempt to spoil the plans for crashing it back in Washington. I've always found that reading about or watching the docs about survivor or victim stories is very emotional for me. These were ordinary people who saved the lives of others and deserve to be called heroes.

A good book for anyone wanting to read more about Flight 93.

Dann says

Incredibly compelling, *Among the Heroes: United Flight 93 and the Passengers and Crew Who Fought Back* tells the story of the first battle in the war on terror. The book recounts the fateful events of September 11, 2001, when a group of passengers aboard a commercial airliner fought back against a group of Middle Eastern hijackers who were part of an organized multipronged attack on America. However, contrary to popular opinion, author Jere Longman contends that the passengers weren't ordinary, everyday Americans. Rather, by chance or providence, they were the exact right people needed to face such an unprecedented crisis. As Longman works through the timeline of events, he provides a peak into the lives of various passengers and crew (their careers, home lives, interests and hobbies, etc.). And through this he's able to put a face to them, and make them relatable to the reader. *Among the Heroes: United Flight 93 and the Passengers and Crew Who Fought Back* provides an intimate look at those who were involved in this tragedy and reveals that those who answered the call that day were far from ordinary, they were extraordinary and represented the best of who we are as Americans.

Mallory says

Does a great job of recognizing each individual passenger on the doomed United 93, giving a mini-biography and drawing connections where others may have overlooked. I don't feel I learned too much more about what actually happened on the flight itself - the basics are known, but much still remains conjecture - however, it's an important read in showing that these people, like everyone else who died on September 11, were just ordinary citizens thrust into an unimaginable situation. They choose to act based on the little information they had, unable to know what a difference they made. I was saddened on reflecting how united we were as a nation afterward and how, just 16 years later, we seem so divided and so far from that sense of brotherhood.

Marize De Klerk says

brilliant read-probably one of the best books written about 9/11

Graceann says

On September 11, 2001, there was one plane that didn't reach its target. This is due to the actions of the passengers and crew on board who, in speaking with their family members and discovering what was happening in New York and Washington, realized that they were very likely going to die and decided to work together to change the outcome. We did lose 40 good people on that flight, but their deaths were not in vain.

Jere Longman tells us about the people who were on United 93. We read about their hopes and dreams, their successes and failures and, as much as can be determined, what their final moments were like. Most of the families participated in this project, and use was made of materials that came to light afterward, such as the hijackers' manual with instructions as to how the murderers were meant to proceed.

I've been to Shanksville, PA and I've stood at that site and said my prayers. I've felt the impotent rage of knowing that so many innocent people were killed that day and there was nothing that I could have done to prevent it. Thanks to reading this, got to learn about 40 people who did do something about it. I have no idea if I could rise to the occasion as these people managed to do; I can only be grateful that they did.

Kelly Kitka says

It is a great read for people who want to know more about the passengers' lives and why they were traveling that day. What I also liked about it is that it still felt like it was a narrative. Longman told the story of Flight 93 intermittently between short but well written biographies of each passenger. If you want to know he did also talk about the life of Ziad Jarrah to put into perspective his own family's reaction to his actions. I am an intern at Flight 93 National Memorial and this was the book they gave me to read to learn as much as I could.

Ryan says

This was a rough read, in a good way. The story of Flight 93 is shared chronologically, with each confirmed event - pre-flight check-ins, calls home before boarding, Airfone calls during the stand-off, etc - triggering an expanded bio of the passenger or crew-member involved. Key events from their lives are used to infer how they probably reacted in the moment.

I'm not one to ascribe to fate, or people having some preordained destiny. But the sheer number of passengers who changed flights - either voluntarily or due to circumstances beyond their control - onto Flight 93 does make for a compelling argument. Especially considering the qualities and characters of the passengers gathered for this flight.

Longman tells the story as a reporter would (since, you know, he is one). He is very thorough, has done a lot of research, and interviewed the family members of all but one of the victims. This is a definite must-read for those studying the events of that day.

Derik LeCaptain says

Among the Heroes, is the most interesting book that I have ever read. It is written in a way that I have never seen before. The book is about the passengers on United Flight 93, during the September 9, 2000, Terrorist attacks. The book tells the story of the all of the passengers, what they did in there lives before the flight, while at the same time telling the reader what was happening on the flight. So the book is constantly transitioning from the setting being on the plane, to the setting being somewhere in one of the passengers lives, before the flight. This book really gets deep into the lives of the people on the flight, all of them mothers, husbands, daughters, sons, and grandparents. I have a great respect for the people on Flight 93, and it is because of people like them, that America is, and will continue to be the greatest country on earth. Anyone who is interested in 9/11 conspiracies, should read this book, and then they will know that this was not a conspiracy, just an attack on America. The brave men and women aboard Flight 93, gave their lives, to save our country.

Michael Fox says

From a first responders perspective, 9/11 changed our lives. This book was a hard but rewarding read. The Author is precise and thorough and his writing style is not the hard part of the reading...it is the memories his prose invoke. When we learn more about the heroes of flight 93, we feel the emotions of that day all over again. I purchased the book at the flight 93 memorial in Shanksville and talked to some of the first responders. This is the book they recommended and rightfully so. This adds the human side to that horrific act 17 years ago.
