



Report from Ground Zero

Dennis Smith

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The tragic events of September 11, 2001, forever altered the American landscape, both figuratively and literally. Immediately after the jets struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center, Dennis Smith, a former firefighter, reported to Manhattan's Ladder Co. 16 to volunteer in the rescue efforts. In the weeks that followed, Smith was present on the front lines, attending to the wounded, sifting through the wreckage, and mourning with New York's devastated fire and police departments.

This is Smith's vivid account of the rescue efforts by the fire and police departments and emergency medical teams as they rushed to face a disaster that would claim thousands of lives. Smith takes readers inside the minds and lives of the rescuers at Ground Zero as he shares stories about these heroic individuals and the effect their loss had on their families and their companies. "It is," says Smith, "the real and living history of the worst day in America since Pearl Harbor."

Written with drama and urgency, *Report from Ground Zero* honors the men and women who—in America's darkest hours—redefined our understanding of courage.

Report from Ground Zero Details

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Author : Dennis Smith

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From Reader Review Report from Ground Zero for online ebook

Brad H says

WOW !!!!

As a avid reader and lover of books I am at a loss for words.

This book, is one of the finest and truest examples of what happened and those effected. Not some political figer pointing. Not why it happened...but what really happened.

I cried, I cheered, and have read this book 3x.

If I ever win the Lotto....I would exhaust my \$\$\$ to bring this to screen.

America might not be ready or willing to see it on screen.

But, by God I would make them. This would make one of the most epic movies, if there is any producer out there to still contain "balls" to do it.

I have read close to 500 novels in my time.

This one is in my TOP 5

When people ask me to give them a book to read or an Idea of something to read...this leads the pack.

It chilling. Heart swept. Sad. Proud. One of those page turners that you can't put down.

I was swept away.

Brad H.

Kelly says

I read this book shortly after it was published and I make it a point to read it once a year. I don't want to forget how I felt, how my fellow NYers felt, and how America felt on 9/11.

This book was put together perfectly. Each firsthand account brought forth a new wave of emotions. I read the book through tears and at times I needed to take a break. It can be overwhelming. It is difficult to read first hand accounts of very real devastation and sorrow.

Susan Liston says

There are valid criticisms of this book in other reviews here, but they didn't much matter to me in this case. The stories are awful and super sad and made me cry, which is why I have avoided this for all these years, having sniffled through other survivor stories. But how cowardly and/or insensitive to NOT read about what

these poor folks went through. Could have been any one of us, after all.

Megan Holt says

Telling the first hand stories of the first responders, then the day to day experiences of the author at Ground Zero, this book is a heartfelt, poignant, and beautiful memorial to the 343 firefighters lost in the WTC.

Jason Gyles says

Very intense! At times, I could only read a few pages before I had to put it down in order to reflect.

Amanda says

4.5

Emotional and heartbreaking. I'm left with such a hollow feeling in my chest, so very sad.

Vince Cooper says

What did you like best about this story?

The experience of 9/11 during and after. Hearing what is what like in the pits working the cleanup.

Did you have an extreme reaction to this book? Did it make you laugh or cry?

No extreme reaction because when you choose a 9/11 book, you pretty much know what you are going to be reading about.

Crystl says

Such a sad story. Love to hear it from the firefighters perspectives.

Jordan Larsen says

From Award-Winning firefighter poet Dennis Smith comes the next chapter in non-fiction firefighter memoirs, "Report from Ground Zero." In a gripping and deeply personal account from various individuals impacted by the 21st Century's Day of Infamy, renowned firefighter author Dennis Smith, best known for his work in "Report from Engine 82" takes the reader into the lives of surviving firefighters, police officers, office employees and the families whose loved ones went to work in the World Trade Center and never returned from the largest terrorist attack on American soil.

Through intimate interviews with Port Authority Police Officers, NYPD Emergency Service Unit members and the lucky few of New York's Bravest who survived the Darkest Day in the history of the FDNY; Dennis Smith assumes the role of interviewer and observer for those who responded to the towers on the morning and afternoon of September 11th 2001. They recount their experiences during the attack and in the three months that followed working the pile at Ground Zero. Here, we see the determined firefighter spirit within Dennis Smith rise out of the shock and rage spawned by the overwhelming gravity of the September 11th 2001 terror attacks as he scrambles to get into Lower Manhattan and support his courageous FDNY Brethren. With virtually every fire company in the Big Apple deployed to the World Trade Center, it's all hands on deck and a desperate race against time to evacuate as many people as humanly possible from the burning 110 story twin towers.

Dennis Smith also gives the audience a unique perspective on the overall operation and origin of the World Trade Center and underscores the significance of this monumental technological achievement. It's no wonder that the same determined breed of radical Islamic Extremists who attacked the WTC prior on February 26th 1993 wanted desperately to return to America's shores and finish the job. In the days and months following the World Trade Center disaster, Dennis Smith volunteers at the site assisting bucket brigades removing debris and even manning a fire hose to cool the still smoldering mammoth debris pile as firefighters and other first responders sift through the pile recovering body parts and other physical remains of their brothers-in-arms. Twenty-three New York City Police Officers and 343 New York City Firefighters lost their lives in a one hour period as the towers fell; making the attacks of September 11th 2001 the greatest loss of firefighters and police officers' lives in modern history.

Former FDNY Firefighter/Author Dennis Smith scores another outstanding literary achievement with "Report from Ground Zero." Chronicling the tales of some of the most courageous and dependable public servants in the world. In a city that tends to revolve around political bickering and trivial differences with each other, the attacks of September 11th 2001 pulled the Big Apple and the world together in unexpected and deeply profound ways; proving to the world and the sinister forces of evil, that America's patriotic soul and humanity could never be defeated.

I was lucky to find this book on Audible and after listening to it, felt as if I just watched a great theatre performance by some very passionate and gifted actors. If you're a fan of Dennis Smith's earlier work in "Report from Engine 82" than "Report from Ground Zero" is a must-have for any fan of New York's Bravest or historian. Well worth the time to read or listen!

chucklethescot says

This is going to be a short review because I read this such a long time ago and don't remember a massive amount about it. I read a lot of books about 9/11 because I am interested in hearing from survivors about their stories and how they saw the events unfold. The first part of the book did deliver on that and was interesting.

This was a decent enough read but I didn't find it as gripping as some of the other books I've looked at. I did feel as if there was a lot of detail in it that wasn't needed ie the name dropping and every compliment he received. I also felt that for a book about 9/11 there was a lot of stuff from after the event that wasn't as interesting as the start of the book.

Samantha says

I really wanted to like this book...really I tried; however, I just couldn't find it in me to enjoy a 400 page pat on the back. The self-centered author, who makes frequent references to his popularity among firefighters due to his other book "Report from Engine Company 82," his powerful friends (he refers to Mayor Guiliani in the book as 'Rudy') and his significant skills (he writes someone told him on the piles, 'You're the natural. If anyone can do it, you can.') makes me want to scream. September 11th was one of the most significant events in my lifetime. I got this book to read about reactions from firefighters: accounts of the event and the aftermath. There was certainly some of that included, but for the most part, I was terribly disappointed in the author's egocentric take. It just wasn't what I thought it was going to be. It was a disappointment.

Chrissy says

I liked this book and enjoyed the fact it shed light on what the firefighters went through on that fateful day and the subsequent days afterward. Dennis Smith is a well-known firefighter turned writer, and I would recommend this book of his to others. However, if a person were to only read one book about 9/11 and/or about the 343 firefighters that lost their lives that day, I would adamantly recommend *The Last Men Out: Life on the Edge at Rescue 2 Firehouse* instead of this one. While this book is a worthwhile read, it lacks flow sometimes, and the author repeats himself quite a few times. That ultimately forced this book into the 4 star read category vs 5 star.

Sirpa says

For a person who has never known one single firefighter or police officer or the like in New York, and who is not familiar with the structure of those departments, this book is a long collection of names and details. Second part was truly boring. It added nothing to what had already been described.

Gayle says

A deeply personal memoir by a fireman of the efforts to recover the 433 firefighters who perished in the 9/11 World Trade Center Attack. As with many other books about 9/11, this one gave me a new and deep appreciation for the brotherhood of firemen and the great familial loss that took place that day.

Peter Bylone says

What a mixed bag.

The first half of the book was tremendous. All first hand accounts of people's actions on September 11th, 2001. From Fire Chiefs to probationary firefighters to cops to Port Authority Police to spouses of first

responders, you get a detailed, layers image of how things unfolded. With each retelling, from slightly different perspectives, you get a three dimensional picture of many aspects of the action that day. Each retelling reveals new sacrifices, new fears and new heroism. There are several spots where I got teary eyed reading about lost sons, fathers, brothers and friends. Truly touching, and worth the cost of the book.

The second half of the book deals with the aftermath of 9/11, and it recounts day by day the goings on surrounding ground zero and first responders. There are still several touching stories in this part of the book - descriptions of funeral services, the desperate search for survivors, the way the communities came together to support the heroes in their neighborhoods. But instead of being in the voice of many different people like the first half of the book, the author is the narrator for most of the remainder. As the days accumulate into months, his point of view becomes increasingly political, and he seems unable to fathom any viewpoint except that of a New York City Firefighter. As time passes, his tone seems to morph the firefighters from altruistic super people that risk their lives to save others to kind of whiny and bitter with entitlement issues. There wasn't a single person who wasn't singing the praises of the first responders in NYC, but the way the story is told, it wasn't enough. They had a way that they thought things should be handled and they weren't going to be happy doing it any other way - never mind that there are competing priorities in the world. And don't get me wrong, I don't think everything was handled perfectly, and I see their point of view for certain things, but the characterization of the city's firefighters by the end of the book left a very bad taste in my mouth (the best example of why is when he relates the story of a confrontation between a group of firefighter protestors and the City Police - senseless and disappointing). I'm sure the problem is probably that the author was too close to the subject, but his editor should have told him that the way he wrote the story ended up turning the super heroes back into mortal men.

I'd recommend this book for history buffs, or firefighters, or people (like my kids) who weren't born yet or can't remember what that day felt like so that they can understand a little better. Despite it's shortcomings with the tone, it's well written and is more gripping than most non-fiction I've read.
