



Choosing Courage: True Stories of Heroism from Soldiers and Civilians

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What turns an ordinary person into a hero? What happens in the blink of an eye on a battlefield (or in any dangerous situation) to bring out true courage? The men and women who have been recognized by the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation know the answers to these questions deep in their hearts. We learn of Jack Lucas, a 13-year-old who kept his real age a secret so he could fight in World War II—where he deliberately fell on a grenade to save his buddies during the Iwo Jima invasion—and Clint Romesha, who almost single-handedly prevented a remote U.S. Army outpost in Afghanistan from being taken over by the Taliban. Also included are civilians who have been honored by the Foundation for outstanding acts of bravery in crisis situations: for example, Jencie Fagan, a gym teacher who put herself in danger to disarm a troubled eighth grader before he could turn a gun on his classmates. Adding depth and context are illuminating sidebars throughout and essays on the combat experience and its aftermath: topics such as overcoming fear; a mother mourning her son; and “surviving hell” as a prisoner of war. Back matter includes a glossary and an index.

Choosing Courage: True Stories of Heroism from Soldiers and Civilians Details

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Author : Peter Collier

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Molly Dettmann says

Uhhhh! Y'all are lying if you didn't tear up at least a little during this book. Really great set of real-life stories of heroes. Most of it is about Medal of Honor recipients from most of our major wars, but the last bit about civilian heroes was very touching. I also enjoyed the little vignettes in-between which explained some of the people/places/and more that are mentioned. I also appreciated that though these stories are supposed to honor these people and show their incredible bravery, it did not glamorize war at all. It described it as the scary, hellish, awful that it is. A kid might still be enamored by the stories though. Also, holy crap! I didn't realize you could jump on a grenade and survive.

Heidi says

Peter Collier has collected some amazing stories in this book about heroes. While many of the accounts shared focus on recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, there are some that don't. The stories about ordinary people who do extraordinary things are particularly touching, such as the middle school teacher who talks down an armed fourteen-year-old, putting her own life on the line for her students. These kind of stories I find particularly touching in the face of modern day celebrity worship. The men and women whose stories are told in this book make sacrifices that in many cases are very costly to themselves. Throwing oneself on top of a grenade to save one's comrades, leaping through heavy gunfire to rescue an injured buddy, enduring years of torture with honor, stepping forward to serve your country after being confined to an internment camp. It's impossible to read these stories without being touched by the individuals who experienced them. One commonality among these individuals is that none of them see themselves as a hero, and yet all of them did heroic things. Since many of these stories involve warfare, there is all too much violence depicted in both actual combat, torture, and recovery, as well as death. A powerful collection of stories demonstrating the power of sacrifice and courage in doing one's duty.

Haley S says

This book is simply amazing. I just couldn't put it down. And it usually takes me at least two weeks to finish a non fiction book. Some of the quotes were so inspiring. I think everyone should read this book. I LOVED IT!!!

Sean says

This is a powerful and thought provoking book. This book pulls no punches, but it is through that honesty that it truly resonates. While a quick read, this book is a mix of retelling and personal accounts of those who have earned the Medal of Honor. The book has a blend of storytelling and informational nonfiction that works incredibly well. Choosing Courage is great for any reader but especially for our reluctant readers who prefer nonfiction. With glorifying the courage of others and not glorifying the violence that accompanied some of the choices, Choosing Courage has a home in any secondary library and I look forward to promoting

this book with my students.

Abigail Z. says

In *Choosing Courage*, inspiring true stories of what it means to be a hero by Peter Collier, you take a journey into the past where you experience heroic stories that the soldiers/heros got medals of honor for. They got these medals for the people they have single handedly fought off like Tibor Rubin. The heros who have saved lives, like Desmond Doss. There are people who wanted to fight for justice and the good of our country, like Vernon Baker. These recognized of the many soldiers have shown courage for the better of our country. In everyday life, we can lose the importance of standing up and having courage. Author, Peter ebrates that hero's put courage before themselves so we may find courage to do the same for someone else. *Choosing courage* is a interesting book, full of twists and turns of true heart pounding action stories. It might catch the eye of readers who like adventure, non-fiction, and historical literature. Their might even be readers who enjoy other war based novels that might like choosing courage for its real written knowledge. Peter has a way of giving us the real stories of the people in our history of the united states that is very informational and inspirational.

Ms. Patterson says

CHOOSING COURAGE tells the stories of Medal of Honor winners from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan. Each profile begins with general information about the subject -- birthdate/death date (if applicable), hometown, dates of service, and a quote. The stories are separated by conflict and told chronologically, starting with WWII. In between some of the profiles, there are short articles about subjects related to the conflict or time period.

This will be a good book for teens interested in the military and survival stories. It's very accessible and I really like how the author gives brief overviews of each of the conflicts and the corresponding time periods. For many teens, even 9/11 is before they were born, and sometimes it's easy to forget that.

B rating. Recommended.

Aodhan says

I finished this a while ago, but it was a pretty good book. I usually don't like reading biographies or auto-biographies, because they're usually pretty boring. But this book, even though it's a collective biography, had an actual story line, and each small story was interesting and intense, making me want to read more.

Margaret Willoughby says

The collection has stories by different authors, so the writing is uneven. That said, I found lots to love about this book and the hero's stories therein.

Maggie says

I have mixed feelings about this book. Certainly the people it profiles are remarkable courageous, all of them heroes in one way or another. And many of their stories are compelling. I'm also pleased to see that the stories of some people of color are highlighted, as well as the stories of how they were often not awarded their medals until many years later. But. One, I feel like this book--despite a few rather weak attempts to the contrary--glorifies war. It seems to suggest that war is what makes heroes, and in many of the stories, the men profiled talk about how the army gave them a purpose and how their experiences in war shaped them into confident, successful citizens. This may well be true . . . but I wish there were more discussion about the horrible cost of war. Certainly many of the men talk about the sadness of losing buddies, etc., but on balance, it just doesn't sit right with me. Also, the book was supposed to also feature civilian heroes, but it is wayyyyy skewed toward war heroes. In the civilian heroes section, some of the featured heroes have a military past, or the situation still occurs during a war. And because the Congressional Medal of Honor (which all of the featured military heroes in the book received) can only be awarded to those involved directly in combat, all of the war heroes featured are men. Only one woman ever received the congressional medal of honor, and she was not in the book (which I think is a major oversight). Only one woman is featured in the entire book (in the civilian section). This is a PA choice book for 2017-18.

Heather says

Each chapter features a different soldier. The stories are succinct and are a nice, brief overview of their life and the courage they possessed in difficult times.

Some of these stories are more quiet acts of courage, which I appreciated. Not every story is about throwing yourself on a grenade, etc. These are not soldiers that were in it for the glory. These are people who did what they needed to do, regardless of the danger their own lives were in. I appreciate the few female stores (there probably could have been more - even from earlier wars). I also appreciated the story of a mother who lost a son.

A variety of disciplines and wars are covered in this book. It's easy to skip around and read what interests you, as each chapter is about a different individual.

* Note: the story of Desmond Doss (Hacksaw Ridge movie is about him) is included in this book.

Charlie Costanza says

"I did a superman dive on the grenade but when I got hit I wasn't" (Page 24). I love this line because it shows the definition of a real hero and a selfless person. It shows that some good people put others first before

themselves. One other good quote in this book is "Do your your best and put no shame on your family." (Page 96). I like this passage because it shows the value of your family and how you want to keep a good name on your family.

Uncle Dave Avis says

This is an excellent book that tells the story of several men and women who were honored with the Medal of Honor. The book does great honor to all who served and as many of the Medal recipients said, they are just holding the medal for all who served.

Good stories that make the reader appreciate those who chose courage. If not you - then who? If not now - then when?

I highly recommend this book to you.

Sean Ames says

I read the book Choosing Courage by Peter Collier. Its a non fiction book. Choosing Courage is a book with different soldiers stories. What kept me interested in this book is the different stories and how each soldier responded to different situations. I didn't dislike how the author wrote it because he wrote it as the soldier told him. This book can inspire you greatly, nothing in this book will disappoint you, Every soldier in this book is a hero. In one of the stories a young boy he's 14 and he lies about his age and forges his mother signature and then is deployed in the army the figured out how old he was so they went to go send him home but he jumped in one of the jeeps going into battle, and then when he got out of the jeep the found him again, so the commander too him. " if you really want to serve your country this bad we will let you". Peters style of writing was how the soldier spoke. He interviewed these people. The time span of all these stories is starting from WW2 to now. I think this book is worth reading because it tells you how soldiers react and what they have to go through in order to protect our country.

Nicholas says

Have you ever wonder what your grandparents did when they were younger? This is your chance to see what they went through but through a different point of view. What they have be through. Where they were when what ever happen to them.This book tells whats happen during the wars and what happened to the people that served in the wars.

The author of my book is Peter Collier. He has wrote the book named Wings of Valor. He has won the medal of honor foundation. He typically writes historical fiction. He also likes to write fiction books.

My book is fiction. The intended audience for this work is people that like books about wars. The purpose of this book is to teach people about what happened in the wars. The books audience would be people that like book that have different points of view. This book has different places the author puts you.

The main theme of this book is about how the wars were.They contribute to the work by talking about the wars.They are effective because they talk about how the people were treated. The book can not be effective because most of the people don't like talking about what happen to them. They contributed by letting them talk about what happened to them.

I would describe the particular style is boarding at first. It can be accessible to all if they like a boarding start. It can also be just for some. I would describe the author's particular style can be good. Most people won't read this book.

The argument was is set up by talking about the past wars. He asks people from the past war to talk about what happened to them. The work does fulfill the purpose. It also supports the argument. The support comes from people that what to talk about what happened to them in the past war.

The main idea is to talk about the past wars. It makes it good for people to learn about the past wars. They wanted to get the story out about the war they were in. They wanted to tell what happened to them. They wanted to tell wanted the government did.

There is no main characters. The main point is to talk about the past wars. There isn't a main character. The main purpose is to get people get understand the wars that were going on. The main purpose to get people to understand what was going on and what happened to them.

The author does provide revealing information because the book talks about war. The guest author does not provide the introduction. There are no judgments about the book. The author can't make a preconceptions about the book. There can't be any judgments or preconception about the wars.

There are character that do work. The principle characters change in the different points of view. They affect the story by telling their own stories about the wars. I do empathize with them. They also affect the story by letting the author write in his own words.

I would describe the particular style is boarding at first. It can be accessible to all if they like a boarding start. It can also be just for some. I would describe the author's particular style can be good. Most people won't read this book.

Ally Michaelis says

I love reading more about history and military books which is why I liked reading this book so much. The book goes through many wars and many peoples stories. The book has so many stories of medal of honor recipients from WWII to Afghanistan, while also having the stories of civilians in 9/11 and school shootings. With all the different perspectives in the book because it is a person's story it keeps you really intrigued because no one is is the same. This books was a great read and a very well written and well organised. This is a great book for someone that likes to learn history or likes to learn about wars and the military/wars.
