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The September 11 Photo Project



Synopsis

I witnessed the fall of the burning towers and death of thousands of people just blocks from where I live. I had taken my camera with me that morning and in a crowd of people took photos while in deep shock, fearing for the lives of those trapped and the rescue workers rushing to save them. I have never felt so helpless in my life. --Michael Feldschuh

During the three months that the September 11 Photo Project was on display at a donated gallery in New York City's SoHo neighborhood, more than forty thousand people visited the space to view the photos and read the words of the project's contributors. The photos in this book, selected from the submissions of more than five hundred photographers, young and old, amateur and professional, give a permanent voice to those who made the September 11 Photo Project what it is: an attempt to build new understanding from the ashes of what has been. These photographs are presented in the following pages with the words of the photographers, as they appeared in the gallery. The perspectives represented on the gallery walls were as diverse as the photos were haunting. Many visitors went away from the exhibit with a greater understanding of what had occurred and were able to begin the healing of the deep wounds of losing friends and neighbors, of witnessing unfathomable atrocity, of feeling that there was no way to help. Together in this book, these words and images lend insight into this calamitous event and our world as it changed in those terrifying moments on a sunny September morning. The SoHo gallery is closed, but the project continues; the collection has embarked on a nation-wide tour. The September 11 Photo Project will use its proceeds from the sale of this book to continue its mission, and to support the New York City Firefighters Burn Center Foundation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I thank each and every reviewer who took the time to add their sentiments to any media portraying The World Trade Center Towers tragedy. What all you readers, viewers, experience with any media photos, etc., IT WAS EXACTLY LIKE THOSE PHOTOS, FILMS AND WRITTEN WORDS.....!My spouse & I resided on the Lower West Side, Battery Park City, Gateway Plaza, So. End Ave. As survivors of the 9/11 World Trade Center Towers tragedy... our story is one in a basket of billions. From our Gateway Plaza apartment, facing the street and 300 yards from the Towers, we helplessly witnessed all from our apartment windows. The closeness of the Towers viewed from our windows - gave an illusion that one could reach out and touch the Towers; their beauty with night lights reaching toward the sky promoted a contemplative emotion. We viewed the planes entering the Towers, the overwhelming inferno, individuals jumping, the collapse of the Towers, the darkness as debris hit our windows with a fury. What occurred over a period of hours, seemed like a much shorter time span. The darkness was darker than an eclipse, darker than the darkest night; and then a momentary hush after the air cleared. Viewing the roof garden one floor below, with the human reaction of looking out to see if someone might be on that roof garden and in need of help. Debris strewn everywhere, recording tape and paper hung from the trees of the garden and oh, so much ash. The momentary hush, whether real or imagined, then the viewing of debris for a second, fantasized that a parade had just passed by on our short street. I experienced anger not fear - anger that factions could bring such evil deeds to our wonderful country. I now really understand the expression a feeling of helplessness, I couldn't fix what had just happened.

As time passes and haunting memories fade beneath the shroud of everyday life, the tragedy of 9/11 continues to resurface. The apocalyptic events of 9/11 and its aftermath, the war on terror and the hunting of demonic cowards come even more to life annually in what is now known as Patriots Day. On this day and the days leading up to 9/11 I've looked through this book countless times to remind myself of just what happened. This collection of photographs by everyday people, caught up in one of the most horrific acts of senseless violence is a testament to the anger, disbelief, shock, hurt, courage and will of the American people. Some of the photographs are gut wrenching reminders of the innocence we all lost on that picturesque day that suddenly turned into a living hell. Others offer hope for the future of the USA and the spirit that lives on but all are real reminders of

the consequences of a few determined individuals backed by an organization, that want to destroy our way of life. Some people may find this book too painful to look at, it is a terrible reminder of the thousands who died and the symbolic and physical destruction of the Twin Towers. As on the day that I witnessed the collapse of a magnificent building, that I once was in and looked at the panoramic view from the restaurant and observation deck, it is still hard to believe that it has been destroyed. This book is a collaborative effort in a sense, it brings together the efforts of all who tried to make sense of the atrocity they were witnessing. By stopping reality for an instant the contributors have created a memorial and a reflection on their own private hell for all to share in their grief. The collages are assembled much like the day, they are put together in a chaotic fashion that is quite fitting .

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