



Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11

By Damon DiMarco

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Damon DiMarco's *Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11* eternally preserves a monumental tragedy in American history through the voices of the people who were in Lower Manhattan and elsewhere in New York City on that fateful day.

The stories DiMarco has collected come from a diverse group of human beings: individuals who managed to escape from the Towers; the bereaved of 9/11; the policemen, firemen, paramedics, reporters, and volunteers who risked their lives to help others; eyewitnesses who stood in shock on the streets below the Towers; WTC structural engineers, political experts, political dissidents, small business owners, and, of course, children whose lives will be forever impacted by the horror and chaos they witnessed.

In the tradition of Studs Terkel, DiMarco's moving oral history chronicles the stories of everyone from the small group of people who miraculously made it safely down from the 89th floor of Tower 1 to the New York Times reporter trying desperately to fight her way through the fleeing crowds into Lower Manhattan, to the paramedic who set up a triage area 200 yards from the base of the Towers before they collapsed to the ordinary citizens of New York City who tried to get on with their lives in the days following the tragic event.

This expanded second edition of DiMarco's literary time capsule includes follow-up interviews that track contributors' lives in the years since 9/11, as well as dozens of never-before-published photographs.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. The only widely available oral history of 9/11 from the perspective of New Yorkers, this monumental work (originally released by Revolution in 2004) has been updated for the sixth anniversary of the national tragedy. In the weeks following the World Trade Center attack, DiMarco, in the tradition of Studs Terkel, wandered Manhattan collecting the stories of Gothamites who survived the collapse of the towers, came to help or simply bore witness—whether from elsewhere in the city, across the country or overseas. Two major themes emerge, the first concerning the heroism of common decency: Florence Engoran, five months pregnant on the day of the attack, was helped down 55 flights of stairs by near-strangers, "two men who promised that they were gonna stay with me the whole time down, which they did." In the same vein, Jan Demczur relates how he used his window washing tools to save himself and an elevator full of people, and Dr. Walter Gerasimowicz tells of the men who aided him when he was forced to evacuate without his crutches. The rigors of loss and mourning make a second theme: Patrick Charles Welsh, whose wife perished on Flight 93, says, "I was so devastated by this unheard cry of souls... This moan of humanity going straight up to heaven." Though a good idea, the scholarly essays that close the book, concerning the U.S.-Middle East relations, feel off-puttingly distant compared to the stories that precede them. DiMarco's contribution to the memory of that horrific day is enormous; the testimonies collected here form an amazing, one-of-a-kind account. Photos.

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Review

"Arguably the most successful attempt at capturing the enormity of the events of 9/11, Damon DiMarco's sprawling oral history [presents] human stories . . . with a raw candor a thousand times more affecting than any cold statistic offered by a commission . . . a riveting and disarmingly emotional read." -- MSNBC Today

". . . heart-breaking reminiscences by New Yorkers who survived the attack and then endured a decade of denial, doubt, and rebuilding." -- The New York Times

"Arguably the most successful attempt at capturing the enormity of the events of 9/11, Damon DiMarco's sprawling oral history runs a wide gamut of testimony from survivors, responders, witnesses and people whose lives were forever altered by the attacks . . . a riveting and disarmingly emotional read." -- MSNBC Today

". . . heart-breaking reminiscences by New Yorkers who survived the attack and then endured a decade of denial, doubt, and rebuilding." -- The New York Times

"The material it offers is unique, a multitude of firsthand experiences preserved as few other 9/11 books have done." —*Library Journal*

"Humanizes stark fact and grants us the priceless opportunity to reach our own understanding of the event we must never forget." —Bill Baroni, New Jersey General Assembly, 14th legislative district

"This is oral history at its finest." —*The Richmond Post-Dispatch*

"This volume defends the understanding, as also the horror, of that day. We are indebted to Mr. DiMarco for the effort and for the editorial acuity." —William F. Buckley

"I hope this book remains in print for a very long time to come, because everyone should read it. Our children should read it. With regard to 9/11, we—as a people—cannot allow a myth to take root. We must ground ourselves in our pain if we have any hope of moving forward. And move forward we must."
—Thomas Kean, chairman, 9/11 Commission

About the Author

Damon DiMarco's oral histories include *Heart of War: Soldiers' Voices from the Front Lines of Iraq*, a collection of first person narratives from U.S. veterans of the War in Iraq. DiMarco also collaborates on biographies, having penned *Out of Bounds* with Roy Simmons, the first former NFL player to publicly announce that he is HIV positive; and *The Actor's Art & Craft* with William Esper, an exploration and elaboration on the famous acting techniques pioneered by legendary acting teacher Sanford Meisner (forthcoming from Random House in fall of 2007). DiMarco currently teaches in the theatre arts department of Drew University. He lives in New York City.

Thomas Kean is the chairman of the 9/11 Commission.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Richey:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information these days can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even restricted. What people must be consider any time those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11 as your daily resource information.

Cynthia Medina:

The book untitled Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11 contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the woman idea with easy means. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new era of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site and order it. Have a nice examine.

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Brandon Erickson:

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