

[PDF] The Unforgiving Minute: A Soldier's Education

Craig M. Mullaney - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: The Unforgiving Minute: A Sol

Author: Craig M. Mullaney

Released: 2009-02-19

Language:

Pages: 400

ISBN: 1594202028

ISBN13:

ASIN: B002IKLMKW



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Description:

From Young Captain Mullaney's admirable, literate autobiography, that of a veteran of combat in Afghanistan, adds much to knowledge of the modern army and makes a valuable contribution to the ongoing debate over what a "warrior" is these days. Mullaney wryly recounts his years at West Point and as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, then writes eloquently of infantry combat and the persistent burden of guilt for not bringing all his men home even as he makes his account a tribute to his fellow warriors. He concludes with sidelights on his teaching post at the U.S. Naval Academy and the moving story of his younger brother's graduation from West Point and subsequent passage into the ranks of the warriors himself. Almost impossible to put down for anyone interested in the modern U.S. Army or in modern warfare in general. --Roland Green

Review Advance Praise for *The Unforgiving Minute*

□Keenly intelligent war memoir whose central question is, "What is a man?" □□□ A philosophically ambitious account of coming to adulthood. □ *Kirkus Reviews*

□Craig Mullaney has lived every kind of American life—he has been a working-man's son, a prize scholar, a soldier—and what comes out of it is a classic memoir about what it means to be American. By marching so many terrains, he has covered the subjects central to every life: courage, pain, loyalty, honor, friendship, love and the tests any good life faces, year by year, minute by minute. He has also produced a page-turner, a brutally honest account of West Point life, the innocence-abandoned experiences of an American abroad at Oxford, and ultimately an indelible story of life and death on the battlefield. In words his squadmates might recognize, I recommend *The Unforgiving Minute* without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. □

□David Lipsky, contributing editor to *Rolling Stone Magazine* and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Absolutely American*

□*The Unforgiving Minute* is the ultimate soldier's book—universal in its raw emotion and its understanding of the larger issues of life and death. Mullaney, a master storyteller, plunges the depths of self-doubt, endurance, and courage. The result: a riveting, suspenseful human story, beautifully told. This is a book written under fire—a lyrical, spellbinding tale of war, love, and courage. *The Unforgiving Minute* is the *Three Cups of Tea* of soldiering. □

□Ahmed Rashid, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Taliban* and *Descent into Chaos*

□Mullaney writes a great story—a true privilege to read. Entertaining, balanced, and graceful, *The Unforgiving Minute* is a powerful narrative of purpose, responsibility, courage, and personal growth. Every young man and woman in America should read this book, and aspire to his standard of public service. □

□General Wesley Clark, USA (Ret.)

□*The Unforgiving Minute* is one of the most compelling memoirs yet to emerge from America's 9/11 era. Craig Mullaney has given us an unusually honest, funny, accessible, and vivid account of a soldier's coming of age. This is more than a soldier's story; it is a work of literature. □

□Steve Coll, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ghost Wars* and *The Bin Ladens*

□*The Unforgiving Minute* is the poignant true story of a young man's unusual education from the classrooms of West Point and Oxford to his development as a leader, son, brother, husband and friend. In this powerful book, we share in the remarkable experiences of a Rhodes Scholar, and the heartache and pride of a soldier. I admire Craig Mullaney's courage, and thank him for his service. □

□Senator Richard Lugar, former Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

□Craig Mullaney is an exemplar of the next great generation of Americans, those who are serving and sacrificing on the front lines in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is a compelling, can't-put-down book, a well-written, memorable description of preparing for war and leading in combat. □

□Joe Klein, *Time Magazine* political columnist and author of *New York Times* bestseller *Primary Colors*

□No matter how many books you have read about the rigors of basic training and the terrors of war, you should read this one. Mullaney's keen eye for detail, lively narrative style, and capacity for self-reflection—unusual in many soldiers—make an old story new and gripping. □

□Anne-Marie Slaughter, Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

□Craig Mullaney adds his name to the very few among of us who have the intelligence, sensitivity and skill to share the unforgiving sadness and the unparalleled joy of leading men and women in combat. *The Unforgiving Minute* should be required reading for all who serve in the White House and Congress and for those who aspire to leadership. Read it. Twice.□

□Paul Bucha, West Point Class of 1965, Medal of Honor recipient and past president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society

□Craig Mullaney puts the reader in the muddy boots of a combat leader as he marches a path from West Point to Afghanistan and back again. Weaving action and reflection, *The Unforgiving Minute* is fast-paced, entertaining, and rich with insight and wisdom. A great debut from a leader to watch.□

□General Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)

□Intimate and evocative in the tradition of the best coming-of-age memoirs, *The Unforgiving Minute* accurately captures what it is to prepare for the ultimate responsibility of leading soldiers in war, a demand as much intellectual as physical, as much about compassion as discipline. By turns thoughtful, hilarious, gut-wrenching, and inspiring, *The Unforgiving Minute* is as gripping and addictive as it is perceptive and honest.□

□Lieutenant General F.L. Hagenbeck, U.S. Army

"Craig Mullaney has served his country twice: first by leading his men at war, and now by remembering. He has done both with skill and honor. Mullaney's memoir is the thinking soldier's guide to modern combat, told with a novelist's eye for detail and a philosopher's penchant for perspective. It is a story well worth reading."

□Bill Murphy Jr., author of *IN A TIME OF WAR: The Proud & Perilous Journey of West Point's Class of 2002*

□No one describes more clearly how a boy becomes a man than Craig Mullaney in this masterpiece of self-awareness. No American can read this book and ever again forget what we owe to others for giving to us a society filled with so many choices that we have the freedom to make for ourselves.□

□David L. Boren, former U.S. Senator and longest serving chairman of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee

□An honest account of the closeness and the distance between a father and a son and the highs and lows of military life. A heart-breaking account of what it is like to be responsible for the life and death of America's most precious asset: the Combat Warrior. A must read for all combat leaders.□

□Lieutenant General Ronald Coleman, U.S. Marine Corps

"*The Unforgiving Minute* tells the story of a fiercely passionate young man and provides important insight into a new greatest generation—his comrades in arms who serve in a time of war. Read this book to get a sense of their courage and sacrifice."

□Lieutenant Colonel John Nagl, USA (Ret.), author of *Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife*

□*The Unforgiving Minute* is a literate and thoughtful memoir that is a valuable contribution to both the genre and to our understanding of contemporary conflict.□

□Andrew Exum, author of *This Man's Army*

The Unforgiving Minute is a wonderful, beautifully written story of the education and development of a young soldier-scholar, the coming of age of an infantry officer, and the exercise of a small unit leader's responsibilities in a tough, complex, and frustrating situation in Afghanistan. It captures particularly eloquently and movingly the relationships among those who walk point for our nation as part of that most elite of fraternities, the brotherhood of the close fight.

□General Petraeus

□A poignant and evocative book about the great hurdles in coming of age: love, death, belief, and betrayal□I couldn't stop reading.□

□Nathaniel Fick, author of *The New York Times* bestseller *One Bullet Away*

□Craig Mullaney's memoir is a story of our time, from West Point to combat in Afghanistan and back. A thousand years from now, historians wanting to know about life in America after 9/11 would do well to look at this book. Equally important, it is an enjoyable and honest book. Read it.□

□Thomas E. Ricks, author of *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*, and senior military correspondent for *The Washington Post*,

□The young Army officer at the center of this tale provides a searing and honest account, full of small victories, significant losses, and eventually the greatest of all triumphs: self-awareness and understanding. This is a marvelous read, full of life lessons on every page, written in a modest and unflinching style□a classic memoir.□

□Admiral James Stavridis, Commander, U.S. Southern Command

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