13 Hours: The Inside Account Of What Really Happened In Benghazi
Synopsis

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The harrowing, true account from the brave men on the ground who fought back during the Battle of Benghazi. 13 HOURS presents, for the first time ever, the true account of the events of September 11, 2012, when terrorists attacked the US State Department Special Mission Compound and a nearby CIA station called the Annex in Benghazi, Libya. A team of six American security operators fought to repel the attackers and protect the Americans stationed there. Those men went beyond the call of duty, performing extraordinary acts of courage and heroism, to avert tragedy on a much larger scale. This is their personal account, never before told, of what happened during the thirteen hours of that now-infamous attack. 13 HOURS sets the record straight on what happened during a night that has been shrouded in mystery and controversy.

Written by New York Times bestselling author Mitchell Zuckoff, this riveting book takes readers into the action-packed story of heroes who laid their lives on the line for one another, for their countrymen, and for their country. 13 HOURS is a stunning, eye-opening, and intense book--but most importantly, it is the truth. The story of what happened to these men--and what they accomplished--is unforgettable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A riveting account of what happened during the "battle of Benghazi". The book is hard to put down. It is the account of what happened during the attack on our diplomatic outpost and CIA annex by the heroic defenders of the compounds. The book describes what the State Department's security team experienced during the attack. The book contains little of the political back and forth just the facts of what happened during the attack. The book reads like a great thriller novel. The story shows heroes
still exist in this world of ambivalence.

I loved the background of Benghazi’s history in the beginning and how it transitioned to the events of 2012. The fast paced, down to earth account given by the survivors made me swell with pride that there are good guys out there, willing to take on evil to protect others and what we should all hold dear. I would recommend this book to anyone who is on the fence about what happened that horrible day and hope they would see how everything they see in 1 minute sound bytes is not always the whole story.

Factual account of the desperate fight the defenders of our Benghazi outposts undertook. I bought this book 9/10 at Costco and finished early this morning 9/12. The author makes it quite clear this is purely a factual account - no politics. And there shouldn’t be any. The brave surviving defenders who largely relate this sad event clearly want it this way. Kudos to the author. And Bravo Zulu to the defenders.

I just started reading this book. As a fairly centrist citizen, I usually base my opinions off of what I hear someone says. It’s so nice to be able to read some facts from people who were actually there. If you don’t know the facts, this is a good place to learn them. It’s much easier to form an opinion when the “facts” skip the media and political biases both liberal and conservative. It’s a heartwarming story to know that there are people who care so much about us that they are willing to march into death for us.

By far one of the best books I’ve ever read. I laughed a couple of times and I cried a lot. In October of this year I had the honor of meeting the guys at a book signing. Having listened to the audiobook and read the Kindle version, I stood in line with three hardcopies at the ready for autographs. There was something about being in the same room with these heroes, for the first time, in a very long time, I felt completely and totally SAFE. I’ve met a lot of “celebrities” but this was different, it was humbling to be around the men who were IN Benghazi, who lost their friends, who saved the lives of others, who survived “13 Hours” that must have felt like a lifetime. The book is 100% non-partisan. Stuck on a rooftop, they weren’t aware of the politics behind that tragic event and Mitch does an excellent job of putting the pieces together from the vantage points of each of the survivors involved. It answered many of the questions I had, but it did leave this reader with one gnawing question and many sleepless nights: WHAT ABOUT BOB?
I am more a reader than a writer of reviews. This book, however, compels comment. From cover to cover it is full of information—historical along with the first-hand accounts of Benghazi heroes—that brings a greater clarity to the inevitable East-West culture clash. On that basis alone it is a must read. But there’s more: The principals in the narrative were upfront about two things: 1) They were well-paid operators hired to protect CIA employees. They knew the risk of their jobs; and 2) They had no political axe to grind. We can only wish that our government had been as up front about the reasons for the Benghazi attack when it was known months earlier that an attack on the U.S. operation was imminent. Rather, from the top all the way down the chain of responsibility the attack became politicized as it was the election season. Recall the slogan: Osama is dead and GM is alive. In that vein, Washington described the cause for the attack as a mob reaction to a “blasphemous” video produced in the U.S. So what we had was bureaucrats in D.C. doing a hurried CYA while the guys on the ground were literally doing that to rescue U.S. State Dept. employees in a compound with substandard security for its environs. Later, in order to shore up this narrative, our State Dept. even went so far as to produce an ad declaring that our government had nothing to do with the video. This taxpayer funded ad ran on Pakistani television. Whether we will ever know the truth—something in scant supply these days—is questionable. We can hope.

I was lucky enough to see three of the heroes interviewed with the launch of 13 hours. What stand up guys—hard-bitten, brave, no-nonsense guys who are gentlemen—family men—with a very deep appreciation of life. We can never know exactly what they experienced. We can only salute them for their service and for their bravery—yet again—in stepping forward to tell their story.

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