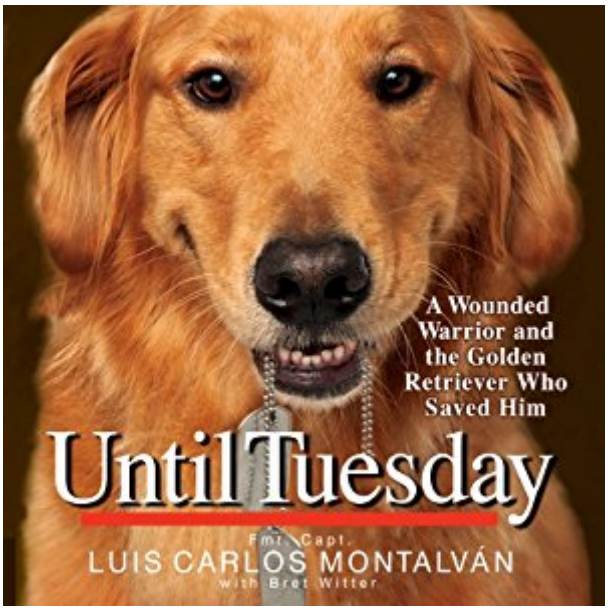
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Until Tuesday



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Synopsis

"We aren’t just service dog and master; Tuesday and I are also best friends. Kindred souls. Brothers. Whatever you want to call it. We weren’t made for each other, but we turned out to be exactly what the other needed." A highly decorated captain in the U.S. Army, Luis Montalvan never backed down from a challenge during his two tours of duty in Iraq. After returning home from combat, however, the pressures of his physical wounds, traumatic brain injury, and crippling post-traumatic stress disorder began to take their toll. Haunted by the war and in constant physical pain, he soon found himself unable to climb a simple flight of stairs or face a bus ride to the VA hospital. He drank; he argued; ultimately, he cut himself off from those he loved. Alienated and alone, unable to sleep or bend over without pain, he began to wonder if he would ever recover. Then Luis met Tuesday, a beautiful and sensitive golden retriever trained to assist the disabled. Tuesday had lived amongst prisoners and at a home for troubled boys, blessing many lives; he could turn on lights, open doors, and sense the onset of anxiety and flashbacks. But because of a unique training situation and sensitive nature, he found it difficult to trust in or connect with a human being until Luis. Until Tuesday is the story of how two wounded warriors, who had given so much and suffered the consequences, found salvation in each other. It is a story about war and peace, injury and recovery, psychological wounds and spiritual restoration. But more than that, it is a story about the love between a man and dog, and how together they healed each other’s souls.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Until Tuesday is much more than the feel-good story about service dogs I was expecting. Luis Carlos MontalvÃƒÂ¡n's book provides a brief but uncompromising look at the conduct of America's most recent military incursion into Iraq and the impact it had on soldiers who were placed in impossible positions. It also indicts businesses that discriminate against assistance dogs. None of that should put off dog lovers who want a feel-good story; MontalvÃƒÂ¡n's relationship with Tuesday, his golden retriever, is at the book's heart, and it is deeply moving.The first three chapters imaginatively recreate Tuesday's training, including a look at Tuesday's life in prison while he participated in the Puppies Behind Bars program, bonding with an inmate and helping the inmate hold onto his humanity in an inhumane environment. Tuesday also put in time at Children's Village, where troubled kids learn about responsibility and success by helping to train service dogs.The next five chapters tell MontalvÃƒÂ¡n's story. It mirrors writing that came out of the Vietnam War in its complaint that the nation's leaders lied to the public, neglected the troops, and did too little to help veterans.MontalvÃƒÂ¡n -- a National Guard officer who had been in uniform for more than a decade -- arrived at Al-Waleed, Iraq, in 2003. While working to keep arms and insurgents from crossing into Iraq from Syria, MontalvÃƒÂ¡n was ambushed and barely escaped assassination. The severity of his injuries (both physical and psychological) wasn't immediately recognized -- in part because he refused the requests of medics who wanted him to go to Baghdad for x-rays. When he returned to Colorado in 2004, the "counseling" he received was brief and ineffective; he feared that requesting more would jeopardize his military career. Unable to adjust to a quiet life and faced with a failed marriage, he signed up for a second tour in Iraq and was assigned as a liaison officer to the Iraqi Special Forces. When the Iraqi Army started "a campaign of tribal and ethnic cleaning against the Sunnis" with the tacit support of the American Army, MontalvÃƒÂ¡n "could no longer understand what [his] men were fighting and dying for." He felt betrayed by leaders who turned their attention to "the media, the message, the public back home -- anything and everything, it seemed, but the soldiers under their command." After he wrote a critical op-ed that was published in The New York Times, he received an honorable discharge and returned home with PTSD: an umbrella diagnosis that encompassed his feelings of anxiety and paranoia, his withdrawal and isolation, his bitter days and sleepless nights.The final sixteen chapters tell the story I was expecting and that dog lovers will recognize: a story of training and bonding, loving and learning. A dog and man with complementary personalities: codependent companions, mutual providers of support. Although MontalvÃƒÂ¡n tells a serious story, he also takes the time to describe Tuesday's playful antics, wonderful passages that made me laugh out loud. Even in those chapters, however, the war lurks. Some politically-minded readers might not appreciate MontalvÃƒÂ¡n's take on the Bush administration ... or, for that matter,

his disappointment with the Obama administration. MontalvÃƒÂ¡n is a bright, emotionally honest man who isn't afraid to express a forceful point of view; it didn't bother me but it might anger some, so be warned. Not all of this book has a "feel good" quality.Until Tuesday tells a personal story; it isn't filled with generalized facts about service dogs or PTSD. I can't say I learned anything new from it, but that might be because I once helped someone with a social anxiety disorder who can't leave his home without the calming influence of a service dog. He was experiencing the same discrimination that MontalvÃƒÂ¡n describes: restaurant managers, worried about violating health codes, mistakenly (and illegally) claim that a dog isn't really a service dog unless its owner is blind. I also live next door to a service dog that assists a woman in a wheelchair. Based on those experiences, and having a golden retriever of my own, I believed every word of Luis Carlos MontalvÃƒÂ¡n's account of how his relationship with Tuesday made it possible for him to reclaim his life -- despite the discrimination he encountered.Tuesday reminded me so much of my own golden (particularly the description of Tuesday breaking training to dive into a swimming pool to steal the other dogs' toys) that I have no choice but to recommend this book. Fortunately, the book merits that recommendation; the story it tells may not be packed with fresh information, but it is memorable and moving and richly rewarding. I would give Until Tuesday 4 1/2 stars if that option were available.

"Until Tuesday" was a great read! I bought it thinking it was all about a dog. It is a story of "Tuesday" but even better, its a story about one of our wounded vets & what it's like for them when they try to return to "normal" life. It talks about their physical wounds as well as their emotional & psychological wounds. It give a clearer picture as to what these men face when overnight they are thrust from a war zone to "normal" living & are expected to adapt overnight. They go thru & see such horrors in the war zone, & those horrors are imbedded in their mind & heart...they don't disappear just because these men set their feet on American soil again. A lot of these men are scared for life. One thing for sure, the man who comes back from war is not the same one who went to war, & probable never will be again. Tuesday was a great help to to Luis, & helped him learn to function in ways he never could before he met Tuesday. I think the government should provide one of these specially trained therapy dogs to each & every vet when he returns home from war. We owe them at least that much to show our gratitude.

When I first saw the cover of "UNTIL TUESDAY: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him" I thought this would be a nice, easy read, feel good story involving a Golden Retriever. Since I own a Golden - who also has an unusual name -- I thought this would be a good read on my

Kindle.This book ended up rocking me down to my soul. I had a hard time putting it down, as I would read in bed until I could not stay awake any longer.The book chronicled the story of U.S. Army Captain Luis Carlos MontalvÃƒÂ¡n who sustained severe back and brain injuries during his second combat tour of duty in Iraq. After returning home, his physical wounds and post-traumatic stress disorder sent his life into a tailspin that seemed to be headed for disaster.This was until Captain MontalvÃƒÂ¡n became involved with a non-profit organization that teamed disabled military veterans with service dogs. K-9 Tuesday and the Captain became partners who learned to trust each other and they formed a bond of love. Eventually Tuesday helped Captain MontalvÃƒÂ¡n out of the depth of despair helping him to regain independence and to eventually become an award-winning writer.This story of the author's struggle and the training of service dogs was truly fascinating. I don't know how anyone after reading this book could not become an active advocate for providing service dogs to veterans in need. Read it. You will thank yourself you did.

This book brought into an acute focus the debilitating effects of PTSD. One can argue the root causes, whether it is guilt of ones involvement in a war they no longer believed in, or even never did, or the trauma of the effects of war on other human beings, or perhaps these and other reasons as well. But the fact is that many thousands have been exposed to horrors we likely will never understand. However, thanks to Until Tuesday, I can much better understand what PTSD is, and how it effects the human condition. This is one of many legacies Captain Montalvan will leave behind. I also much better understand how service animals are trained and the invaluable service they can provide. Captain Montalvan rebounded well enough from his PTSD to earn a Masters Degree in journalism from Columbia University, and he put his education to work with this book and numerous articles in major newspapers and websites. I certainly wish this book had a happy ending, but the reality is there is often no happy ending to the effects of war. It kills, it maims, and it cripples those who survive it. R.I.P. Captain Montalvan.

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Primary Sources) The Keys to the Kingdom #2: Grim Tuesday Call Me Cockroach: Based on a True Story (Call Me Tuesday Series Book 2) The New York Times Best of the Week Series: Tuesday Crosswords: 50 Easy Puzzles (The New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Terrific Tuesday Crosswords: 50 Easy Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times The New York Times Tuesday Crossword Puzzle Omnibus: 200 Easy Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times Black Tuesday Over Namsi: B-29s vs MiGs - the Forgotten Air Battle of the Korean War, 23 October 1951 One Tuesday Morning (9/11 Series, Book 1)

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