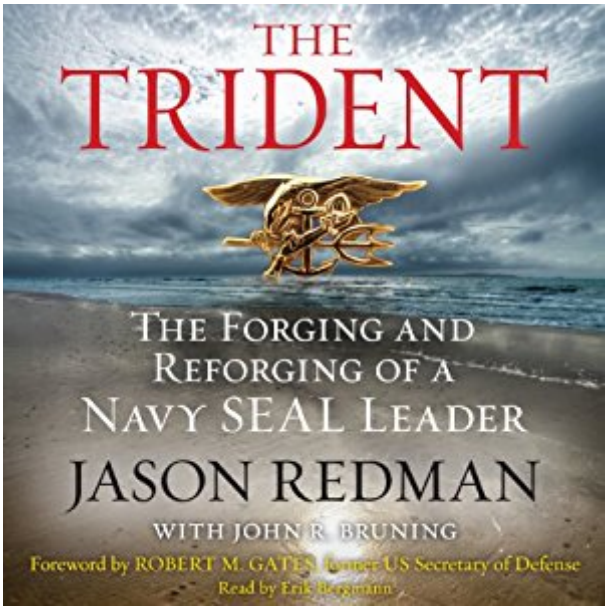
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Trident: The Forging And Reforging Of A Navy SEAL Leader



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Synopsis

Decorated Navy SEAL Lieutenant Jason Redman served his country courageously and with distinction in Columbia, Peru, Afghanistan, and Iraq, where he commanded mobility and assault forces. But his journey was not without its supreme challenges. He was critically wounded in 2007 when he was struck by machine-gun fire at point blank range. During his intense recovery period, Redman posted a sign on his door, warning all who entered not to "feel sorry for [his] wounds." His sign became both a statement and a symbol for wounded warriors everywhere. Vivid and powerful, emotionally resonant and illuminating, The Trident traces the evolution of a modern warrior, husband, and father, a man who has come to embody the never-say-die spirit that defines one of America’s elite fighting forces.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 12 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 21 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: HarperAudio
Audible.com Release Date: November 5, 2013
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B00FRS944I
Best Sellers Rank: #33 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Afghan & Iraq Wars > Iraq War #49 inÃ Â Books > History > Military > Iraq War #155 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Medical

Customer Reviews

Many of the books I read are finished in a few reading sessions. This one was different. I found myself reading a couple of chapters and then putting it down and thinking about it for a few days. I was amazed by Jason’s story. While I am always amazed at anyone’s journey towards becoming a member of the SEAL teams, this one was different. Here was a smart man, incredibly determined, willing to overcome anything to realize his goal of wearing a Trident. Yet he made that road so much tougher because he was always his own worst enemy.Jason was young, arrogant, and with a little too romantic a view of the world. That view of the world was partially shaped after reading Dick Marcinko’s Rogue Warrior. SEALs were supposed to be bad-ass hard chargers that could drink all

night and then run combat missions in the morning. It did not matter what you said or did, your actions would speak for themselves and others would understand and look upon you with awe.But he ended up burning a lot of bridges and lost the trust and respect of his teammates. In the SEAL teams, reputation is the currency, without it you cannot survive. Your teammates will not go into battle with you if they do not trust you. And he lost that trust.His world came crashing down around him after he made some poor decisions during a combat mission. He went against his training because he was still immature and impulsive.When he got called in to explain his poor choices he was filled with indignation. This was a personal vendetta by a Chief who just had it out for him. They were just trying to take away his Trident. He did nothing wrong, they were all ganging up against him. This had happened before, why were they treating him like this? How could they not see he was right?He never once thought that the problem might lie with him.Not everyone gets a second shot in life, but he was given one. Actually more than one, but he really needed to understand the chance he was given and realize this was an opportunity to learn if he was willing to take it.The story gets even more incredible from here. As he works to restore trust and reputation with his teammates, as he gets within grasping distance of his goals, he gets severely wounded.I remember seeing the sign he posted on his hospital room door about not feeling sorry for him. That sign went viral a few years ago and it touched me, because this was obviously a special person. I feel honored to have just finished reading his full story.This is truly a story about redemption. He made a lot of mistakes, but through self reflection, sheer determination, and an unwavering will he was able to bring himself back from the edge. It is a story about hope and about overcoming and adapting the challenges life throws at you. This is the story of an inspiring hero.

"The Trident" is a beautifully written, brutally honest first person account of tenacity, failure, tragedy, and, ultimately, the triumph of determination and love.Of the many SOF autobiographies out there, this is as good as it gets.Redman shows incredible courage as a survivor of catastrophic injury, and also with his stunning admission of personal shortcomings that practically derail his career and destroy his lifelong dreams of being a SEAL. His long road to recover first his reputation, then repair his shattered body, are two gripping reminders of the tenacity and strength of character that makes SOF warriors, especially those wearing the coveted Trident, so unique and inspirational.Most poignantly, the love Redman shares with his "Spartan wife" (check Steven Pressfield’s "Gates of Fire" if you don’t really get this reference) and her insurmountable patience, strength and love are an extraordinary tribute to his wife Erica and a beautiful reminder of the power of love. While we traditionally ask ourselves, where do we find such men, "The Trident" also shows us that we should

be so fortunate to have someone like Erica Redman in our life, or surrounded by love like theirs.Redman’s story is also a vivid reminder of the sacrifices so many servicemen and women (and their families!) give to those of us who walk unmolested through our daily lives (rough men stand ready indeed!). It should serve as a clarion call to make the most of one’s life, focus on the power of love, be grateful to those who serve, and push us all to make a difference in the lives of veterans everywhere, especially those wounded on our behalf. The Redmans’ own Wounded Wear Foundation is a great place to start.Lastly, The Trident convinces me that you want John Bruning writing about/with you. He has played a hand in some of the finest modern examples of combat memoirs: "Outlaw Platoon" with Sean Parnell, "House to House" with David Bellavia, and "Chasing Shadows" with Fred Burton. Quite simply, if he coauthors your book, you are a true warrior; and you can sleep safely in your bed at night knowing it’s going to be a beautifully written tale of courage and service.

Yes, there is the obvious heroism of battle in this book; however, it is about so much more than that. The courage to face your faults, acknowledge them and deal with them. The bravery to keep going once wounded and face the world head on, refuse pity, and the downward spiral of despair. The strength to deal with peoples reactions in a positive way and the valor of helping others through the same. The grit to keep your sense of humor. That is what this book is about.It explores so many aspects of courage and becoming a person of strong character. There is something in this for everyone. I am eternally grateful for all of our Veteran’s sacrifice. This book not only had me appreciating that, also the determined change every single one of us can make in our life to be a better person. We can not all serve, but we can challenge ourselves to own our mistakes, learn from them and change. Jason does a great job of laying out his flaws with brutal honesty. I think most of us could use that degree of self reflection.Every day is a gift, and this book is an excellent reminder. Cherish your spouse, adore your kids. Be thankful to our Veterans, and don’t be afraid to let them know. For me the biggest reinforcement is the values of honesty to yourself and those around you. Look back and reflect on the times in your life you are bitter about. It is doubtful you are blameless and the reason it bothers you is because there is a learning moment there.I loved this book. This goes on the keeper shelf. It is a wonderful read, parts are very fast paced, and others are reflective moments. It was well blended and I am glad I bought this. I am going to purchase more copies as gifts for Christmas.

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