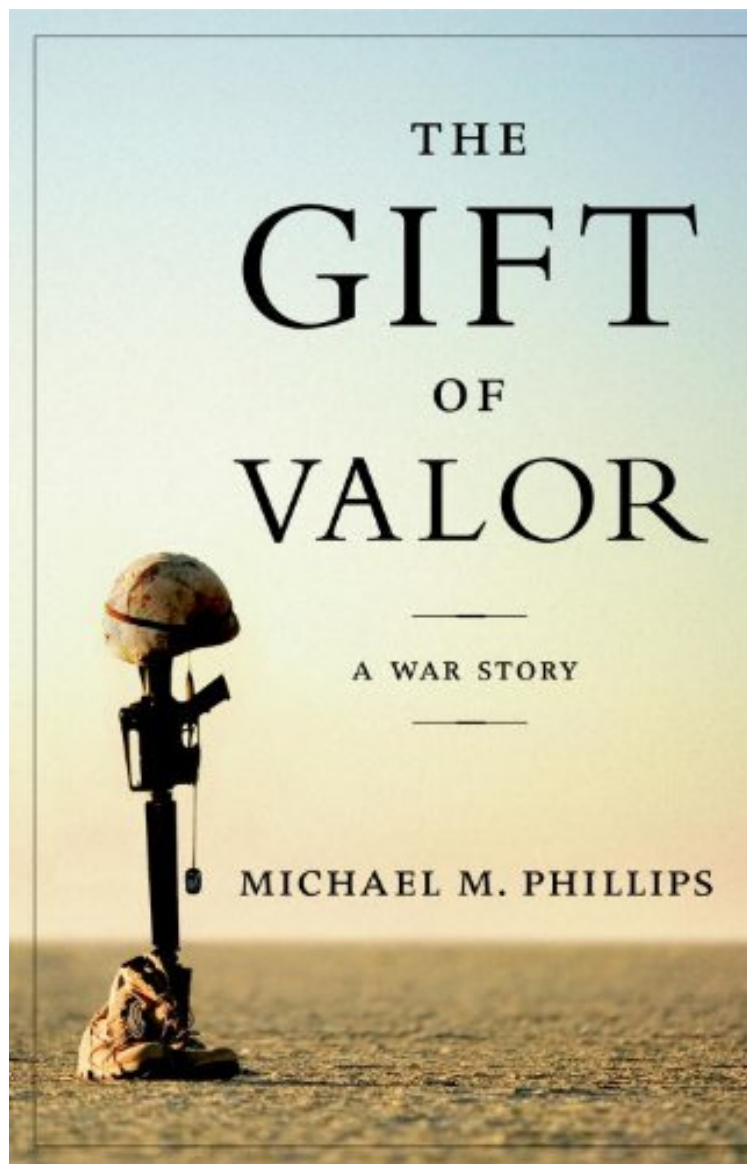


(Mobile ebook) The Gift of Valor: A War Story

The Gift of Valor: A War Story

Von Michael M. Phillips

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Von Michael M. Phillips : The Gift of Valor: A War Story before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gift of Valor: A War Story:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Semper fi Von Fr Kurt Messick There are still heroes in our times, and this is the story of one of them. Corporal Jason Dunham of the United States Marine Corps has been nominated for the Medal of Honour, according to author Michael Phillips, an embedded journalist who spent several tours in Iraq. Phillips writes that there are many ways to win this highest of

awards, as the obstacles at the Crucible course at Parris Island will attest, but the classic way is to save one's fellows by throwing oneself on a grenade. This is precisely what Corporal Dunham did. In a foreshadowing irony worthy of a Shakespeare play, Dunham and his commanding officer were speaking of ways in which one might survive a grenade attack shortly before the attack. Phillips writes that, 'for Marines at war it was a mundane conversation, the battlefield equivalent of the discussion that college students back home might have about last night's keg party.' After all, what does one talk about with fellow Marines in a war zone? Phillips does an outstanding job at presenting Corporal Dunham the Marine and Jason Dunham the American, showing in careful and caring detail his upbringing and training, as well as the missions he fought in Iraq at Camp Husaybah, a troubled spot near the Iraqi/Syrian border. Phillips gives almost excruciating detail of Dunham's last mission, the attack and the aftermath, as well as the extraordinary efforts to save his life - episodes of MASH were never like this. Phillips simultaneously adds a good amount of detail about traditions and the culture of the Marine Corps - this really is a different world, but it is not the monolithic construct it sometimes seems. Phillips quotes from an essay that Dunham wrote about the Marine Corps, in which he describes three types of Marines - the spit-and-polish Marine, the overweight slacker, and the 'more relaxed but good marine'. Dunham saw himself in the later category, and Phillips writes in glowing terms of Dunham's humane leadership style and natural leadership abilities, which were recognised widely by his superiors, companions and subordinates alike. Like many tales of heroes in war, this is a tragic tale. There are many left behind broken in body, mind and spirit; there are family members and friends who mourn, and a mission as yet unfinished. Phillips concentrates on the tale and task at hand, rarely involving the broader politics of the situation, which also did not really seem to concern Dunham either - his duty as a Marine did not involve questions of that sort. Dunham's character can clearly be seen not only from the split-second decision to cover the grenade, but from the longer-term actions such as voluntarily extending his enlistment to make sure that he would be with his men. When asked why he would add five months to his time, knowing that it was going to be spent in dangerous situations in Iraq, to Dunham it was simple - 'I want to make sure everyone makes it home alive.' While valour of the sort he exhibited on April 14, 2004 is rare and creditable, his more deliberate self-sacrifice is even more indicative of his nature. Corporal Dunham was faithful to the end, and this book is faithful to his memory, one worthy of being honoured.

Kurzbeschreibung The true story of US Marine Corporal Jason Dunham's brave act that saved fellow Marines and earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Corporal Dunham was on patrol near the Syrian border, on April 14, 2004, when a black-clad Iraqi leaped out of a car and grabbed him around his neck. Fighting hand-to-hand in the dirt, Dunham saw his attacker drop a grenade and made the instantaneous decision to place his own helmet over the explosive in the hope of containing the blast and protecting his men. When the smoke cleared, Dunham's helmet was in shreds, and the corporal lay face down in his own blood. The Marines beside him were seriously wounded. Dunham was subsequently nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for military valor. Phillips's minute-by-minute chronicle of the chaotic fighting that raged throughout the area and culminated in Dunham's injury provides a grunts-eye view of war as it's being fought today: fear, confusion, bravery, and suffering set against a brotherhood forged in combat. His account of Dunham's eight-day journey home and of his parents' heartrending reunion with their son powerfully illustrates the cold brutality of war and the fragile humanity of those who fight it. Dunham leaves an indelible mark upon all who know his story, from the doctors and nurses who treat him, to the readers of the original Wall Street Journal article that told of his singular act of valor. **Pressestimmen** Affecting, moving. -- New York Times Book "Thanks to Phillips' clear, dispassionate prose, Dunham is becoming a symbol of the Marines." -- St. Louis Post-Dispatch "Stands head and shoulders above previous Iraq books and will quickly [become] a 'must-read.'" -- Proceedings Magazine, U.S. Naval Institute "If you have any desire to learn about the Marines, this book is well worth your time." -- Armchair General Magazine From the Hardcover edition. **Kurzbeschreibung** The true story of US Marine Corporal Jason Dunham's brave act that saved fellow Marines and earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Corporal Dunham was on patrol near the Syrian border, on April 14, 2004, when a black-clad Iraqi leaped out of a car and grabbed him around his neck. Fighting hand-to-hand in the dirt, Dunham saw his attacker drop a grenade and made the instantaneous decision to place his own helmet over the explosive in the hope of containing the blast and protecting his men. When the smoke cleared, Dunham's helmet was in shreds, and the corporal lay face down in his own blood. The Marines beside him were seriously wounded. Dunham was subsequently nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for military valor. Phillips's minute-by-minute chronicle of the chaotic fighting that raged throughout the area and culminated in Dunham's injury provides a grunts-eye view of war as it's being fought today: fear, confusion, bravery, and suffering set against a brotherhood forged in combat. His account of Dunham's eight-day journey home and of his parents' heartrending reunion with their son powerfully illustrates the cold brutality of war and the fragile humanity of those who fight it. Dunham leaves an indelible mark upon all who know his story, from the doctors and nurses who

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