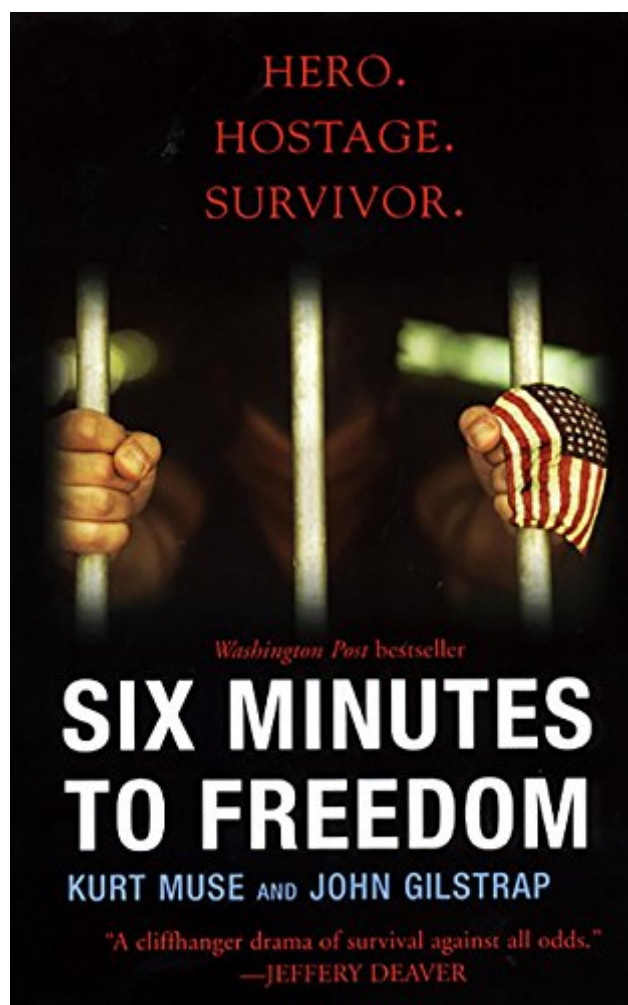


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Six Minutes To Freedom



Synopsis

Dear President Bush, My name is Kimberly Anne Muse. I am writing this letter not for me but for my father, Kurt Frederick Muse. As you should know by now, he is a political prisoner in Panama. . . . Born in the United States and raised in Panama, Kurt Muse grew up with a deep love for his adopted country. But the crushing regime of General Manuel Noriega in the late 1980s threatened his, and a nation's, freedom. A nightmare of murder and unexplained disappearances compelled Kurt and a few trusted friends to begin a clandestine radio campaign, urging the people of Panama to rise up for their basic human rights. *Six Minutes to Freedom* is the remarkable tale of Kurt Muse's arrest and harrowing months of imprisonment; his eyewitness accounts of torture; and the plight of his family as they fled for their lives. It is also the heart-pounding account of the only American civilian ever rescued by the elite Delta Force. Timelier than ever, this is a thrilling and highly personal narrative about one man's courage and dedication to his beliefs. "A cliffhanger drama of survival against all odds." --Jeffery Deaver "A dramatic portrayal of idealism, courage, integrity, and fortitude." --John Douglas and Mark Olshaker "A must-read for anyone interested in how Delta Force operates." --John Weisman "Harrowing, entertaining, inspiring, and very, very readable." --Col. Lee A. Van Arsdale, U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret) "A thrilling chronicle that puts a human face on unspeakable actions." --Continental magazine A Featured Alternate of the Military Book Club

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Customer Reviews

This is a true story of true heroes. Not only is Kurt Muse, the author and subject an authentic hero, the F Team of Delta Force Assaulters that rescued him from certain death at the hands of the dictator Noriega are authentic as well. Muse fought the dictator with creativity, wit and humor. F Team fought him with bullets and grenades. A measure of the man Muse is that on the anniversary of his rescue he calls each of his 23 rescuers on the anniversary of his liberation, to thank them and to update them on the life and family of the man they saved. A measure of the Delta operators is that even those gravely wounded returned to the service of our Nation. This is a political thriller with a difference: the story is true; only the names have been changed to protect the victorious from the revenge of the defeated. I have had the privilege to meet one of the Delta operators that participated in the raid on Modelo Prison; no finer friend can you have, no fiercer enemy if you're an enemy of our Nation. Read this book for insight into real people at the center of one of the geopolitical events of our time. It's not just history, it's humanity.

I truly enjoyed reading Mr. Muse's account. Having personally experienced that little piece of history, the book brought so many memories back. Kurt Muse is a hero and an inspirational role model. This is the story of how one person can truly make a difference. Once I started reading the book, I could not put it down.

One night I was watching a special ops show on the Military Channel and they were showing the story of Kurt Muse and the Delta Force team who rescued him. My interest peaked and I ordered the book. The book was amazing and I couldn't put it down. I read it from cover to cover. I expected a story of military tactics, but this was much more. I was amazed by how the book showed the hell that Kurt's family and friends went through. How the different US agencies looked after him during his crisis and ultimately set out to liberate him. Men and women from lowly privates up to the President of the United States had taken an interest in insuring the safety of a nobody in a Central American

prison. This book is well written and keeps the reader constantly wondering "What's next?" While the book does cover some of the shortcomings of different players involved, it certainly gives due respect to those who put the plan in action. The members of the Rescue Team have their identities protected in the book, but there is no shortage of humanity in how they are portrayed. If you have any interest in "recent" military ops, this is a worthwhile read. If you just want a non-stop thriller, that happens to be a true story, then definitely pick up this book.

Six Minutes To Freedom is an accurate account of the events and climate in Panama during the reign of terror of General Manuel Antonio Noriega. During the stand-off with Democracy, many Panamanians endured a life style similar to the Russian occupancy of East Berlin and the PDF had similar tactics as the Stasi. Those who endured the suffering and survived as did Kurt Muse and his family and associates is depicted in an extremely revealing drama of the way society loses under a Dictator's rule of law. I applaud Kurt and his family for having the courage to share those hardships with us in order to appreciate the Freedom we now have. Six Minutes also reminds us of the days when the United States Military had its Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone and provided that absolute peace of security provided by their presence and professional stature. A Good Read!

I ordered this after seeing a YouTube history channel special on this story. Riveting, amazing story. I hope this is a movie some day. If you really want a glimpse of the underground horrors that maintain dictatorships around the world, the courage of a few people to confront them, and the confusion and clumsiness that can mean life or death under oppression, read this. CIA thriller + Delta Force showdown.

The book was intriguing, especially since it was based on a true story of Noriega's corrupt regime and the co-author's experience as a prisoner and his struggle to survive in Panama. It was well written and the ending was suspense laden but realistic, not a super hero's fantasy tale. The story was gripping as to the realities a dictator can impose with cruelty and death as his instruments to remain in power, it is sad, but true that it seems to be a part of human nature that is repeated over and over again throughout history.

This book made me relive the fear and the anxiety most Panamanians experienced under Manuel Noriega's dictatorship. I believe that the book exaggerates somewhat on the overall role that Kurt

Muse played in the huge movement to get rid of the military regime, but the only clear error I found (very small if one considers the length of the book) is that Dr. Hugo Spadafora, who was horribly tortured and beheaded by Noriega's orders, had not previously been an anti-Sandinista guerrilla, as indicated in the book, but an anti-Somoza guerrilla. Another detail that I interpret differently is that I think that the permanent guard soldier who was ordered to kill Kurt Muse if an American invasion took place had just gone to the restroom when the rescue mission started, which I think was an answer to all the prayers for Kurt's life.

I remember watching those events unfold on tv and being in Jr high school. To read that one man who was not politically motivated, but rather morally, had so much to do is awe inspiring. Thank you to all the men and women who stand up for freedom and the right morally for us to follow our God given blessings. May you all never loose hope in all you do. Thank you.

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