



Betrayed: The Shocking True Story of Extortion 17 as told by a Navy SEAL's Father

By Billy Vaughn

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Before BENGHAZI, There was EXTORTION 17.... August 06, 2011, 2:20 a.m.—Operation Lefty Grove is underway, a highly dangerous mission to take out another high-level Taliban operative, three months after the death of Osama Bin Laden. In the dark of night, twenty-five US Special Ops Forces and a five-man flight crew on board Extortion 17, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Seven unidentified Afghan Commandos are allowed to join them. Ground forces have already been engaged in a three-hour exhaustive battle. Extortion 17's specially trained warriors drop into the Hot Landing Zone to help their fellow warriors. But there's a problem: the standard chopper escorts have all been directed elsewhere. Mission directions are unclear. Worse, pre-assault fire to cover the Chinook transporting our brave fighting men is not ordered. On that fateful night, Extortion 17 would never touch down. Taliban fighters fired three rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) in rapid succession. The first RPG shot below the Chinook, but the second made contact in what the military would later describe as a “one-in-a-million shot.” The shot struck a rotor blade on the aft (rear) pylon, shearing off ten and a half feet of the blade. The third shot flew above the falling chopper. Within a matter of seconds, the chopper begins to spin violently out of control and then drops vertically into a dry creek bed and is engulfed in a large fireball. There are no survivors. The thirty brave Americans lost that night were more than just warriors. They were husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons. Billy Vaughn's son, Aaron Carson Vaughn, was one of them. Over the next few months as unsettling information on the tragic incident is released to the families, Billy Vaughn becomes increasingly disturbed. Billy discovers that US military forces are not being led to win battles, but have been sent on a fool's errand to “win the hearts and minds” of other nations. He is told that the US Rules of Engagement have prevented our brave defenders from defending themselves. Adding insult to injury, Billy learned that a Muslim Imam was invited by our own US military leaders to “pray” over his son's dead body. As US war heroes lay in their caskets before their last flight home, the Imam damned America's fallen warriors as “infidels” who would burn in hell. As US military leaders observed the ceremony at Bagram Air Base, the Imam boasted over the deaths of US heroes with words such as, “The companions of heaven [Muslims] are the winners.” Betrayed is a heart rending account in America's history, an engaging

story of faith, patriotism, honor, duty and loss. Betrayed is not just the biography of an American military family, it is a crucial, true-life narrative that every American must read and understand about their government and the danger America's military strategy currently poses to all families. Betrayed is a book Billy Vaughn wishes he didn't have to write. But his son is gone and there are still unanswered questions. He needs to know if finding the truth may prevent another father from standing in his shoes.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Billy's son, Special Operations Chief (SEAL) Aaron Carson Vaughn (DEVGRU), was one of America's most elite warriors... one of the 300. He was engaged kinetically in the Global War on Terror and his heart beat passionately for the republic he loved. On 6 Aug, 2011 he, along with 29 other rough, fearless, American warriors, stepped into a CH-47D Chinook chopper in the black of night and headed to a mission from which they would never return. As Billy and his wife, Karen began searching for answers, their eyes were opened to vile atrocities being played out on America's military. They quickly came face-to-face with their worst nightmare...our boys shouldn't have died that night. The downing of Extortion 17 was at best unnecessary and at worst a negligent, reckless loss of life. Political games, criminal Rules of Engagement and Washington's total, wanton lack of regard for the battles our fearless warriors face on a nightly basis finally culminated in the greatest one-day loss of life in the history of Naval Special Warfare. If these atrocities had ended on August 6, 2011, Billy's battle would never have begun. But multitudes since have breathed their last --at the hands of the same disgusting lack of regard and/or criminal behavior. Our defenders deserve to be defended. The burden of their covering rests on us, the patriots of this nation. It is imperative that we stand together and demand change. Although Billy cannot be engaged in this war kinetically as Aaron was, he feels the absolute need to be engaged culturally.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lee Rutledge:

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