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Perfect Strangers: Friendship, Strength, And Recovery After Boston's Worst Day



Synopsis

Four lives brought together in a deadly moment prove that being in the wrong place at the worst time can lead to life's biggest adventures and most important relationships. As Roseann Sdoia waited to watch her friend cross the finish line of the Boston Marathon in 2013, she had no idea her life was about to change—that in a matter of minutes she would look up from the sidewalk, burned and deaf, staring at her detached foot, screaming for help amid the smoke and blood. In the chaos of the minutes that followed, three people would enter Roseann's life and change it forever. The first was Shores Salter, a college student who, when the bomb went off, instinctively ran into the smoke while his friends ran away. He found Roseann lying on the sidewalk and, using a belt as a tourniquet, literally saved her life that day. Then, Boston police officer Shana Cottone arrived on the scene and began screaming desperately at passing ambulances, all full, before finally commandeering an empty paddy wagon. Just then a giant appeared, in the form of Boston firefighter Mike Materia, who carefully lifted her into the fetid paddy wagon. He climbed in and held her burned hand all the way to the hospital. Since that day, he hasn't left her side, and today they are planning their life together. *Perfect Strangers* is about recovery, about choosing joy and human connection over anger and resentment, and most of all, it's about an unlikely but enduring friendship that grew out of the tragedy of Boston's worst day.

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Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful first-person account of what happened to Roseann Sdoia at the Boston Marathon bombing and her amazing recovery. In spite of the horrible things that happened, she truly came out a winner, gaining a whole new life - new friends, love, a new career. There is no sugar coating in her retelling of the story! She even discusses her decision of whether or not to go to the trial of the brother captured after the bombing. I was especially touched by her family's reaction to what happened and how she bonded with the people she met at the moments after the bombing - people who saved her life..The more personal side of the story (she bemoans that she cannot wear high heels any longer, struggles with how to buy clothes to fit over her prosthesis, jokes about not getting a one-leg discount when she gets a pedicure) lets you see her spirit and determination. In the end of the book it was noted that Roseann is now doing speaking about amputation and amputees, and I would love to hear her speak in person..I was impressed by how well-written the book is (some memoirs are not!) and believe that she could have a career in writing if she wanted. I highly recommend this book!

Like most the country, I was riveted by the events of the Boston Marathon Bombing and the aftermath. This well written, first hand account of the events is unique. This is not about the bombers or the criminal case, but personal one...specifically a true survivor whose life was changed forever. And, it's about three people who helped save her and became her family through tragedy. This book tells the before, the heart-wrenching during, and the aftermath for Roseann Sdoia. It was so personal and real. A must read!

I felt this book showed us the great strength that everyone had or worked really hard to achieve . It is good to be able to follow Roseann who was there to watch her girlfriend run up to and, through her trauma and then being able to say she met the love of her life. There are stories about how wonderful people came together to save her life as well as their own stories. Living in MASS. this really hit home and brought some of the terror back. I enjoyed this book.

Roseann was my next-door neighbor and friend to my three boys while growing up in Dracut

Massachusetts. When I heard about her being wounded severely in the Boston marathon I was so upset. And I followed her remarkable courage and progress very closely. About a year later I wound up losing my own right leg due to an accident I had several years ago. Roseann was instrumental in helping me get in touch with the correct people Who would help me to adapt to life without my leg. So I couldn't wait to read this book and it did not disappoint. What a fabulous story of constant courage and determination in a wonderful young lady. Her story shows how when people come together in a disaster it can change all of their lives for the better. I would recommend this book to everyone because it encompasses all ages and all types people.

I thought the book was wonderful. Roseann covered, with great sensitivity and honesty, her feelings as well as the feelings of the other individuals she writes about. I couldn't put the book down. My children grew up in Dracut, MA where Roseann grew up. My two oldest children knew Roseann and my youngest knew of her. I believe one of my son's friends used to date Roseann. She certainly grew up to be a very lovely, "strong," and determined woman and my children and I wish her and her husband, Mike, much love and happiness. My 8 year old granddaughter, Samantha, saw Roseann and Shana on TV one evening and she told my daughter that she knew Shana. She said that she met her at her babysitter's house Her babysitter's name is Gloria.. What a small world it is!

A beautiful memoir surrounding the Boston Marathon bombing, Perfect Strangers is filled with honesty and courage, demonstrating just how indomitable the human spirit can be. Inspiring and difficult to put down, this book displays the power of embracing life, the birth of unique friendships, and the growth of love, all in the midst of adversity.

This is my niece! I have been waiting for months for this book to come out. Please read it, it is truly a heartfelt book of their journey!

I really liked the way she every point of view

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