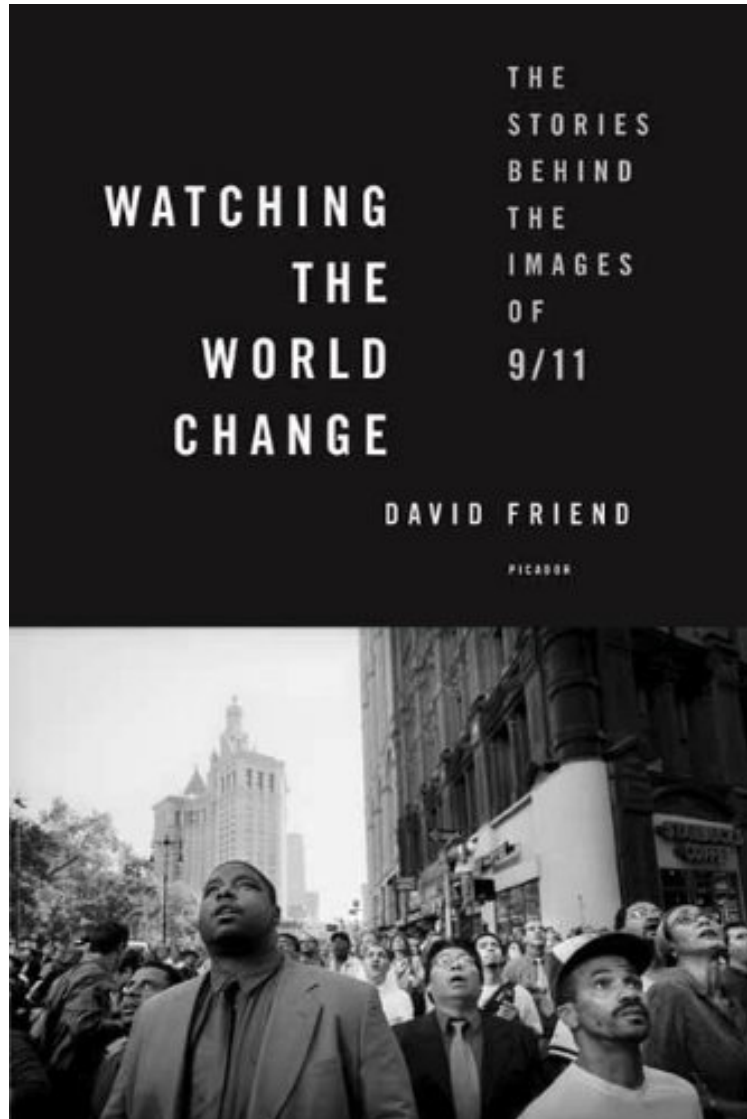


Watching the World Change: The Stories Behind the Images of 9/11

David Friend

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David Friend : Watching the World Change: The Stories Behind the Images of 9/11 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Watching the World Change: The Stories Behind the Images of 9/11:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Watching the World Change: The Stories Behind the Images of 9/11 By Aeolus A very well written book in an "intimate" style, it shares many heretofore unavailable "takes" of that day. While I was surprised at the small number of photographs the book actually contained when I received it, the true value of the book is in "filling in the blanks" about the images it does discuss. This becomes apparent as the book is read. It also becomes obvious that only a limited number of images could be "explained" as thoroughly as Mr. Friend

does without the book becoming exceedingly bulky. Some of the images in "Watching..." border on the farcical - such as a pregnant German woman. Hands on her stomach in an apparent takeoff of the modeling magazines, she languidly poses for the camera as the Twin Towers smoulder in the background. Must be a German thing, this ennui regarding mass murder. Others, such as an image of one of the "jumpers," is accutely haunting, searing itself into one's consciousness like a branding iron. Reading Mr. Friend's explanation of the image, in which the probable identity and work location of that poor soul become apparent, the horror becomes even more immediate, as we feel we "kind of know him." For those of us who love New York but (thank God!) weren't there to witness the perdition in the flesh, Mr. Friend's book probably gives the reader the closest possible approximation of what it feels like to have lost a loved one that day. He manages to "put a face" on many of the victims. They come to seem like friends. I love and hate this book. It's a "magic telescope" which "brings it all back" so effectively that it almost seems to stretch time backwards to that horrid day. It is masterfully done. Americans must never forget what was done to Americans that day. Mr. Friend's book should make the "Day of Infamy" comprehensible, almost immediate, to future Americans. Well Done!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The stories behind the day
By Customer
It's obvious why it took the author so long to write this book. Meticulously researched I was surprised at the stories I didn't know. Having watched "The Flag" on CNN, I wanted to know more. This book provided more than I imagined. In addition to the backstories begin the iconic photographs, the author provides a thought provoking discussion on how our desire to capture in pictures has changed over time. I found this book hard at times to read and had to put it down to recover. It's a brilliant, emotional testament to what we all went through on 9/11.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book, Great Delivery
Time
By angel wolf
This book was sent to me in almost perfect condition. It is a slightly used library copy, but that means the cover is protected by special library clear sheets and all the pages are fixed in and are not dog-eared and there are no marks in the book. I was greatly impressed by the short delivery time.

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center was the most universally observed news event in human history. That the event was so visual is owing to the people who, facing disaster, took photographs of it: imperiled office workers, horrified tourists, professional photographers risking their lives. Conceived by Osama bin Laden as the toppling of an image of America right before the world's eyes, the tragedy swiftly came to be defined by photography, as families posted snapshots of their loved ones, police sought terrorists' faces on security-camera videotapes, and officials recorded the devastation and identified the dead. In *Watching the World Change*, David Friend tells the stories behind fifty of the images that altered our sense of our world forever; from the happenstance shots taken by bystanders as the first tower was struck to the scene of three firemen raising the Stars and Stripes at the site. He tells unforgettable stories of photographers and rescuers, victims and survivors. He shows how advances in television, digital photography, and the Internet produced an effect whereby more than two billion people saw the terrible events as they happened. He explores the controversy about whether images of 9/11 are redemptive or exploitative; and he shows how photographs help us to witness, to grieve, and finally to understand the unimaginable.

From *Publishers Weekly* Starred . Friend, a former director of photography at Life and currently editor of creative development at Vanity Fair, writes: "For many of us, photos are the glue we use to hold in place the disjointed bits of fiction and fact that make up the stories of our lives." In this important analysis of how images of 9/11 and the "war on terror" have altered our understanding of power, world politics, religion and identity, he successfully merges reportage and analysis as he interprets the images of falling towers, panic in Manhattan streets and prisoners at Abu Ghraib that have been burned into our brains. But Friend elevates the book to a higher level with his iridescent commentary on the broad political and philosophical implications of 9/11 photography. For example, he recognizes the need to identify victims of a disaster as well as the Orwellian impulses in potential federal programs to create national photo ID cards. And he takes on such complicated issues as self-censorship in the media and how the Bush administration quickly learned how to use images to kick-start and maintain the war on terror. Lucidly written and urgently argued, this essential book is a valuable addition to literature on contemporary media and current politics. (Sept.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From *Booklist* Friend, Emmy Award-winning executive director of the documentary *9/11*, offers a perspective on the terrorist attack from the actions and emotions of photographers on hand that day. Pros and amateurs, fashion photographers and news photographers--some wrestling with the ethics of photographing such a tragedy, others gladly taking advantage of being in the right place at the right time for a once-in-a-lifetime shot--recall the harrowing physical and emotional positions they took to get their shots with Leicas, Mamiyas, and disposable cameras. A photographer who was at home when the nearby World Trade Center was struck started taking shots, then put down her camera in favor of her rescue skills and equipment. Others recall focusing on the humans in the foreground, providing perspective and registering their own emotions and sense of personal danger. From the iconic photo of three firefighters raising the American flag at ground zero to photos of the missing that were posted in the days and weeks following the disaster, this compelling book demonstrates the power and pathos of an unforgettable event. Vanessa Bush Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "As I read *Watching The World Change*, my pulse began to quicken. This is an intricately woven tale of that

terrible day, and terrible week, that is both gripping and thought-provoking. The images, of course, are seared in our consciousness, but after reading this book you will look at them in a whole new way. Much has been written about 9/11, but David Friend shows it to us as no one has before." --Anderson Cooper"The crystalline images of September 11 soon became blurred, either by hysteria or exploitation or by a certain reticence that mutated into near-denial. At last we have a book that looks steadily through the lens and does not flinch, but which cancels voyeurism by its care and measure and by the multiplicity of its perspectives." --Christopher Hitchens"To read *Watching the World Change* is an overwhelming experience. Beautifully written and observed, as a tribute to the dead, it embodies the Buddhist wisdom about change, life, and the world more than anything written after the events of that day." "A reader can only bear witness to the tenderness and wisdom at the core of this book, which distinguish it throughout. David Friend's passionate sympathy engages the reader without relenting. Just about all the observations that might be sought from the events of that day are here: victims, survivors in every sense, responders. Loss, pride, a helix of sorrow and shame along the meridians of the world. Along with its records of grief, *Watching the World Change* celebrates the courage to go on, which may be the most admirable and irreplaceable of human virtues." --Robert Stone