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When Hell Was in Session

Jeremiah A Denton

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Jeremiah A Denton : When Hell Was in Session before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When Hell Was in Session:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Duty, Honor, CountryBy Robert I. HedgesWith the passing of time, it is too easy to forget the sacrifices that members of the US military make for the residents of the United States and the free world. Of all the men most mistreated in the history of the US, the Prisoners of War in North Vietnam suffered most grievously, and for the longest period of time. Here Jeremiah Denton, a navy pilot at the time, and future US Senator, chronicles his captivity in North Vietnam. This is one of the best books written on the subject, as he never enhances the story, and reveals his faults and fears candidly. Rarely has a more modest and well grounded man been treated so brutally for so long with so much mental and emotional strength.Denton was launched in his A-6 from the USS Independence on his fateful flight while being observed by Robert McNamara who was there on a fact-finding junket. Needless to say most military members and especially pilots loathed and disrespected McNamara and his insane ideas about warfare, but did their best in spite of obstacles erected by both North Vietnam and Washington. For his trouble that day, Denton was singled out by his captors for extra torture as he was "sent by McNamara personally", and was, like all captured American fliers, a "war criminal."Throughout the book, Denton returns to the theme of self-discipline and the Code of Conduct. Never have men endured more torture and been more selfless and noble: this book gives a glimpse into what makes these men so great. Men like Denton, Leo Thorsness, Bud Day, Robbie Risner, Jim Stockdale, Everett Alvarez, and, yes, John McCain kept the faith under conditions far worse than anyone who wasn't

there can imagine for the good of the United States and the American way of life. Free people everywhere should be eternally grateful to all these men. This book is harrowing and sad, but is also unexpectedly uplifting as it reveals the power of the human spirit to endure even when things appear darkest. Denton mentions several quotations that inspired him throughout his life, but my favorite is early in the book when he quotes an anonymous man who said "The greatest heroes known are those that are afraid to go; but go." Never have truer words been spoken. The book gives insight into how to survive physical, but more importantly, mental and psychological torture, and emphasizes the spiritual thinking required in a time of such duress. Sadly, after coming back to the US, Denton was confronted with changes in the fabric of society that saddened and disappointed him: the sixties ravaged our society while he was a POW, with an especially strong toll on families and youth. For this reason Denton has devoted himself to the cause of the American family with a greater vigor than anyone I can recall. I thought that his endurance as a POW would be the thing I admired most about Denton, but after reading this book it is clear that there is so much more to him. I cannot recommend this book more highly. Though it grimly reveals the inhumanity that human beings can show each other, it presents a calling for all of us to be better people every day. If men like Jeremiah Denton can make it through a Vietnamese POW camp, surely the trials most of us face on a daily basis will seem trivial indeed. Thank you, Senator Denton.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. HEAVY, with great historic value. By Boompaprofoundly moving... but not an easy read. This is important Vietnam War history from a credible source... something still rare today. It is also an inspiring story of one man's faith and love of his country. There are some incredibly important lessons in this account for a nation that just had a historic presidential election (2016). Folks who self-identify as "anti war" or "pacifist" will choke on the reality of Denton's experience. Others who believe that war, if declared, should be fought fiercely... till the enemy is broken, will find themselves embracing Denton's advice. A few annoying publisher glitches... one in a late chapter, and several in the Epilogue(s) do not rise to the point where I would drop my rating of this book to 4 stars, but proofreading is not top rated.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Too bad he didn't serve as a Senator longer. By Thadeus For some reason I had never heard of Jeremiah Denton or this book so my expectations weren't high. But, I was quickly captivated by every word and finished the book quickly. It easily motivated me to stand up for what is right even more--that we must fight for the principles and standards this country was founded on, no matter how few fight. And I loved his additional epilogue where he criticizes those who need it, and provides warning to our country. He and many others went thru hell and we are indebted to them. I wish I could have met him. I was hoping he would expound on how he adjusted to post-POW life. He quickly moved further in the future. Regardless, excellent book that I am recommending to my family and friends. How did he stay so driven while being tortured and treated worse than an animal for so long?? I know he wasn't the only one too. Thank you for your service and example Mr. Denton. Rest in Peace and keep fighting the good fight from the other side.

On July 18, 1965, Admiral Jeremiah Denton of the U.S. Navy was shot down during a combat mission over North Vietnam. A prisoner of war for seven and a half years, Denton provided the first direct evidence of torture by the North Vietnamese. This special 25th anniversary edition of Denton's experience is sure to inspire a whole new generation of readers.

About the Author On July 18, 1965, Jeremiah Denton was shot down near Thanh Hoa. He spent almost eight years in North Vietnamese POW camps. During a 1966 television interview arranged by the North Vietnamese, Denton blinked in Morse Code, spelling out T-O-R-T-U-R-E with his eyes: the first confirmation Americans in Vietnam faced torture. Denton won election to the U.S. Senate in 1980.