



Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York

Thomas Von Essen

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York

Thomas Von Essen

Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York Thomas Von Essen

The Site

May 30, 2002

How will we ever get through this? is the question I ask on the night of September 11. *How?*

Maybe the answer is here, all around me. Not just in the cleanup, not just in the purpose demonstrated by all who came and labored all these months.

The answer is in the enduring spirits of all assembled here. That, for me, is the miracle in all of this: having looked horror in the face, we bear the pain without losing heart.

--Thomas Von Essen

Thomas Von Essen, New York City's Thirtieth Fire Commissioner, had seen just about everything during his thirty-one-year career in the fire department: building collapses, raging infernos, heroic rescues, and power struggles. But nothing could have prepared him, or the fire department, for the devastation that occurred on September 11, 2001. In just 102 minutes, the mighty twin towers were reduced to rubble, and the Fire Department of New York had lost 343 men. Many of them were Von Essen's friends and colleagues, men whose exemplary lives had contributed mightily to his love of the department.

From his time as a young firefighter at the "Elephant House," or "La Casa del Elefante," as it was known, in the hectic South Bronx, to his embattled and controversial years as president of the Uniformed Firefighters Association, to his term as fire commissioner under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Von Essen drew lessons from his courageous peers about the value of self-sacrifice in the service of others. *Strong of Heart* is a testament to the amazing and often unsung acts of heroism that the Bravest perform every day. Von Essen recounts the inspiring story of Chief of Department Pete Ganci, who once plunged into a raging inferno to save several trapped children; how Father Mychal Judge, an FDNY chaplain, showed his deep compassion and faith again and again as he tended to the families of fallen firefighters; and how Ray Downey, the head of special operations, raced tirelessly from one emergency scene to another, to provide his expertise in every kind of disaster.

From the memories of these men and others, Von Essen drew strength and a sense of duty that helped carry him through one of the darkest periods in FDNY history. In this moving memoir, he provides an insider's look into the harrowing days after September 11, from learning about which men were missing, to working closely with mayor Giuliani and other officials in planning the countless funerals for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. He describes the daunting challenges of moving forward without some of the FDNY's most knowledgeable and beloved leaders, of trying to comfort grieving widows, and of facing criticism of the difficult decisions he and other city officials made. *Strong of Heart* is the haunting yet uplifting tale of one man's search to rise above tragedy, to begin the painful process of rebuilding, and to find hope in the legacy left behind by the great men of the Fire Department of New York.

 [**Download** Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Depart ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Depa ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York Thomas Von Essen

From reader reviews:

Janet Magnuson:

The book Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why must we leave a very important thing like a book Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York? A number of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you may share all of these. Book Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York has simple shape however you know: it has great and large function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by available and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

Teresa Powers:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also get a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Jerry Bates:

The particular book Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York will bring you to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book you just read, this book very suitable to you. The book Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Albert Jones:

With this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of the books in the top record in your reading list will be Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the
Fire Department of New York Thomas Von Essen
#YWJN9GXE8VK**

Read Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York by Thomas Von Essen for online ebook

Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York by Thomas Von Essen Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York by Thomas Von Essen books to read online.

Online Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York by Thomas Von Essen ebook PDF download

Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York by Thomas Von Essen Doc

Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York by Thomas Von Essen Mobipocket

Strong of Heart: Life and Death in the Fire Department of New York by Thomas Von Essen EPub