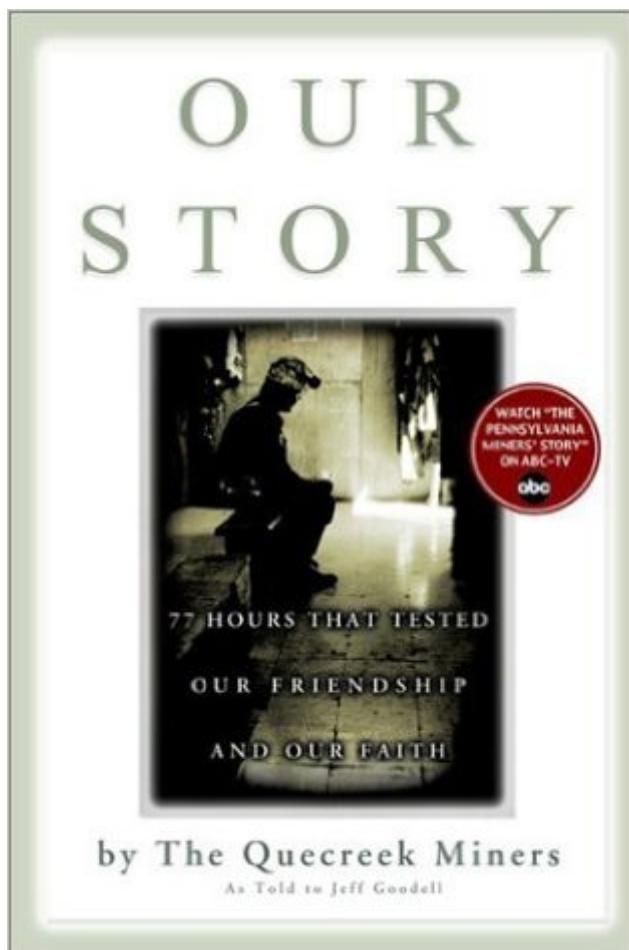


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# Our Story: 77 Hours That Tested Our Friendship And Our Faith



by The Quecreek Miners

As Told to Jeff Goodell



## **Synopsis**

The nation stopped and held its collective breath as word spread of the plight of the nine Pennsylvania coal miners who were trapped underground for 77 hours. Nine miners were below when water trapped in an adjacent mine burst through the wall of the new mine they were working. As the air grew thinner and the men grew colder, they listened to the water rising around them in the honeycomb of coal veins. Sitting in a small air pocket, the men wrote farewell notes to their families and sealed them in a lunch bucket. On the surface, the rescue effort became hampered when a special drill bit snapped. The drill would lay idle for 14 hours, effectively halting the rescue, as a replacement was brought in. Hope and despondency alternated, as the determined rescue team made progress, then hit setbacks. Below ground, standing in water and chilling temperatures, the men rode the same waves of hope and despair, all in complete darkness. The successful rescue of the Nine for Nine miners lifted the spirits of an entire nation. Now everyone can hear the complete story of this harrowing accident -- how these men and their families had the strength and bravery it took to survive the incredible ordeal, and of the frantic efforts to save them.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Pretty easy read and insightful into the ordeal these nine men and their families went through. But... it could have been so much more. Goodell simply just organizes their comments and adds a little info here and there. I would have prefered to have read an account researched by an author where he took those interviews and created a mesmerizing narrative. What it is now is an okay book that

you can read in a day. But what it could have been would have been a gripping story that made you feel like you were in that mine with them or waiting in the fire station with friends and family hoping for the miracle that came. Also, the pictures left a lot to be desired. The diagram of the mine was helpful but most of the pictures were of rescuers not mentioned in the book or faint photos of the men as they came to the surface. Also I kept having to look back at the jacket to connect who was whom because the author used nicknames but the diagram had real names. Otherwise an okay book so I give it 3 stars. The story of the miracle itself is worth 5 stars.

Excellent story of a real life tragedy with a wonderful ending. This is the 2nd year my high school English Class has read it and they love it. Its a story that everyone can relate to from beginning to end. Money well spent when kids want to read it everyday.

This is a fascinating story about 9 miners, in the town of Quecreek, Pennsylvania, who wound up trapped in the depths of a coal mine for 77 hours. The way it was told, however.....That's another issue. If this book were picked up by a novel writer or pretty much anyone who can tell a good story, it would have been a great read. Instead it was written like an hour long news report with a narrator filling in the gaps between the member interviews. This approach does give a lot of direct quotes from the miners and their families, but it also leaves in the poor grammar and speech that makes them sound a lot less intelligent than they probably are, and doesn't leave you sympathizing with them by the way they actually experienced the trauma. It was lot of, "we thought we was gonna die", without digging into the progression of that reality. I usually wouldn't say this, but it could have used a little hollywood flavor to get the reader engaged with the story. It would definitely make for a good novel/movie, but it just didn't deliver in this book. While I never really had an interest in mining (still don't), it does give you a good picture as to how life in a coal mine works, and the desperation in a persons life that might lead someone to that field of work. Overall, I think the story itself could make for a great novel or movie (if done well), but this was read like someone just interviewed the miners and their wives and then compiled the quotes to make a book. I don't usually give books away, but this might end up at Goodwill very soon.

Like everyone else I had heard of this event in the news. Reading about what each miner was thinking at specific times was super interesting. I like that the author included the families in the time line. For me it was the perfect amount of information. I learned what was meant by "building walls" and also about the code that is printed on the inside of the miners hard hats, that's information I

would have never learned about without reading this book. I definitely recommend this book.

I appreciated hearing the miners' own words about this terrifying experience. It was truly inspirational. I feel compassion and understanding for the emotional roller coaster experienced by their families as a result of these events. However, I was ultimately disgusted by the words of some of the family members criticizing and complaining about how management and public officials handled the rescue. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent and an enormous amount of people devoted expertise, time, and energy to the rescue effort. This work documented few or no expressions of appreciation and thanks from family members for these efforts, only ongoing and constant criticism and complaints about people that were doing their absolute best in difficult circumstances. It's one thing for a distressed person to be freaked out and disappointed when a rescue is not going perfectly. That is forgivable. What is documented in this book goes far beyond that.

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