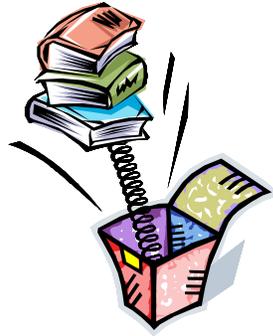




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Book Club in a Box



WHITTIER PUBLIC LIBRARY

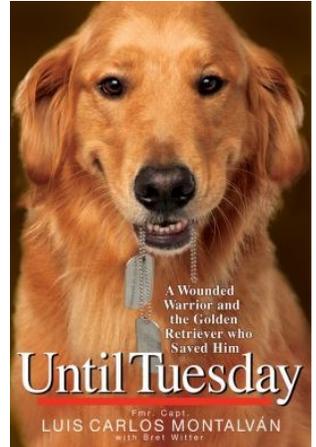
UNTIL TUESDAY

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About the Book

"We aren't just service dog and master; Tuesday and I are also best friends. Kindred souls. Brothers. Whatever you want to call it. We weren't made for each other, but we turned out to be exactly what the other needed."

A highly decorated captain in the U.S. Army, Luis Montalván never backed down from a challenge during his two tours of duty in Iraq. After returning home from combat, however, the pressures of his physical wounds, traumatic brain injury, and crippling post-traumatic stress disorder began to take their toll. Haunted by the war and in constant physical pain, he soon found himself unable to climb a simple flight of stairs or face a bus ride to the VA hospital. He drank; he argued; ultimately, he cut himself off from those he loved. Alienated and alone, unable to sleep or bend over without pain, he began to wonder if he would ever recover. Then Luis met Tuesday, a beautiful and sensitive golden retriever trained to assist the disabled. Tuesday had lived amongst prisoners and at a home for troubled boys, blessing many lives; he could turn on lights, open doors, and sense the onset of anxiety and flashbacks. But because of a unique training situation and sensitive nature, he found it difficult to trust in or connect with a human being-until Luis. *Until Tuesday* is the story of how two wounded warriors, who had given so much and suffered the consequences, found salvation in each other. It is a story about war and peace, injury and recovery, psychological wounds and spiritual restoration. But more than that, it is a story about the love between a man and dog, and how together they healed each other's souls.



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About the Author



LUIS CARLOS MONTALVÁN is an award-winning New York Times bestselling author, speaker and advocate. TUESDAY is Montalván's beloved service dog and the recipient of the 2013 American Kennel Club (AKC) Humane Fund Award for Canine Excellence (ACE) - Service Dog.

From issues relating to service members, veterans, and their families to those pertaining to Americans with disabilities, Capt. Montalván and Tuesday are vocal public advocates. Luis's written work has been featured in numerous publications including the New York Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, and Military Review. He and Tuesday regularly appear on local, national and global media.

Among the outlets on which he and Tuesday have been featured are NPR, CNN, CSPAN, National Geographic and The Late Show with David Letterman.

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In January 2013, *Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior* and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him hit the New York Times Bestseller List for the third time in three consecutive years. In 2012, the inspirational memoir earned the USA Best Book Award in the Autobiography/Memoir and Audio-book Non-fiction categories and was an International Latino Book Award finalist. Also in 2012, for narration of *Until Tuesday*, Montalván was a finalist for an APA Audie Award beside four other nominees including Tina Fey and Michael Moore. Luis is also the recipient of a 2011 Voice Award and the 2011 Invisible Hero Honors Award (IDA) for his efforts to educate the public about trauma and the real experiences of veterans and people with disabilities. On September 11, 2007, Capt. Montalván honorably departed the U.S. Army after 17 years of military service. Before joining the officer corps in 2003, Montalván spent over a decade as a communications specialist, military police officer and infantryman in the enlisted ranks, having joined the Army in 1990.

In addition to his years in Iraq, which earned him two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, and the Combat Action Badge, among other awards for meritorious service and valor, Montalván has mentored and trained officers at Fort Benning and served on policy development teams in Washington, D.C. After personally witnessing the tragic attack on the Pentagon on September 11, Luis volunteered to perform security missions around the D.C. metropolitan area. By then, he was enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Georgetown University and the University of Maryland, College Park. At the latter, he contributed to the founding of the college's first Army ROTC program since WWII.

In 2003, after graduating from college and completing the Armor Officer Basic Course (with Honors) at Ft. Knox, KY, Montalván deployed to Iraq as a member of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment (3d ACR). Luis served as a Tank and Scout Platoon Leader from September 2003 to April 2004 in the western Al Anbar Province. He was responsible for securing and developing the Al Waleed port-of-entry (POE), one of the largest border crossings in Iraq, in addition to patrolling the vast Iraqi desert along the strategically important Syrian border.

In March 2005, he deployed to Iraq again with the 3d ACR and served there until March 2006. During his second tour, he worked in a myriad of assignments including leading a Military Transition Team (MiTT) in the volatile Mahmudiyah, Yusufiyah, and Latifiyah areas of South Baghdad during "Operation Squeeze Play," the largest combined operation since the beginning of the Iraq War. As new coalition units moved into the South Baghdad region, Montalván and his MiTT rejoined the 3d ACR in western Ninevah

Province where he was assigned as the Regimental Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) Operations Coordinator. During August and September 2005, "Operating Restoring Rights," a successful "clear and hold" effort in the city of Tal Afar, Luis established and developed the Joint Coordination Centers for the western Ninevah Province. Subsequent to the initial battle, he was responsible for coordinating ISF development along the Syrian-Iraqi border. Promoted to Captain, he was assigned as the Regimental Adjutant for the 3d ACR.

Later in 2006, he was assigned to Ft. Benning, Georgia, to train and mentor newly commissioned officers at the Basic Officer Leadership Course II (BOLC II) as well as coordinate resources and administration for the 1-11th Infantry Regiment. In 2007, he was invited to participate in the American Enterprise Institute's (AEI) Iraq Planning Group (IPG) where he contributed to the development of new national strategic policy.

Luis holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Master of Science degree in Journalism from Columbia University in New York City. His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, Airborne, Air Assault, and Pathfinder Courses.

In addition to his decorations for service in Iraq, Luis was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He is a qualified military parachutist and has conducted airborne jumps with the Czech, Thai, and Slovak armies. Luis is presently a graduate student at Columbia University working on a second Master of Science degree in Narrative Medicine. He is a member of the Council for Emerging National Security Affairs (CENSA), a former Vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) -- Brooklyn Chapter #405, and an active member of several veterans' service organizations (VSOs). advocacy, and are touring in 2014.

<http://www.luiscarlosmontalvan.com/bio.html>

Further Reading

If you liked *Until Tuesday*, you might like:

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk by Ben Fountain

Dewey the Library Cat by Vicki Myron

Fobbit by David Abrams

What It Is Like to Go To War by Karl Marlantes

Discussion Questions

Were you surprised to learn that a dog could make such a difference in such a wounded human being? Why or why not?

The author describes this transformation very well in speaking of Mary who lost her arms and had so much trauma in Iraq. He obviously admires people and dogs who don't give up. (pg. 115) What was your reaction as you read this book - did you find it uplifting or distressing?

Do you feel we are not being given accurate coverage of the war by the media as the author stated? (pg. 88)

How might Capt. Montalván's experience been different if his parents had shown more understanding and support in the beginning? (pg. 90)

Why did they react so negatively? The author felt so betrayed by his parents and by the Army. Why did he see the face of his assassin in his father's face? (pg. 92)

What changed Luis' attitude about being a broken soldier from one of shame to one of pride? (pg. 93)

What caused the profound loneliness that he expressed saying he felt "terminally alone?" Why couldn't he reach out to others instead of isolating himself? Doesn't that seem odd as he was so lonely?

Do you feel that loneliness and sense of betrayal was the first vital link between he and Tuesday? What first drew his attention to Tuesday?

Why does he say that the email he received about the Puppies Behind Bars changed his life? (pg. 96)

Upon meeting Tuesday, Luis instantly understands that he will have to earn the dog's affection and he is determined to do so. Does that seem odd considering that he felt the same way about his parents and the Army? He had worked so hard and suffered so much to earn their respect and, in the case of his parents, their love, and failed? pg. 109

Do you think his parents truly did finally begin to understand as the author states?

The correspondence between Capt. Montalván and his father is very honest and interesting. As much as he was wounded by his father's statement that he "wasn't going to be another broken soldier," he seemed to see behind it. Do you agree with his interpretation of the comment? pp. 139 - 141 (That it was coming from fear).

Were you surprised by the reason Capt. Montalván gave for why so many soldiers return for second and third tours of duty? (pg. 85)

It is quite a commentary on our society when Traumatic Brain Injury did not get our attention until football players began to be affected. Why didn't we know more about our service people? (pp. 199 & 212)

How did you first learn about PTSD? Were you aware of the incredible horror of it prior to reading this book? Do you know any veterans who suffer from it?

Do you think Montalván is an exception or more the norm in seeing his PTSD and other wounds as a "new way to serve." (pg. 193)

What does the editorial attack on our veterans, by Allen Breed, say about the media as a whole today? (pg. 227)

Why do less than half of the veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI seek treatment? Did you understand that no one recovers fully from PTSD before reading this book? Can you understand why this is true?