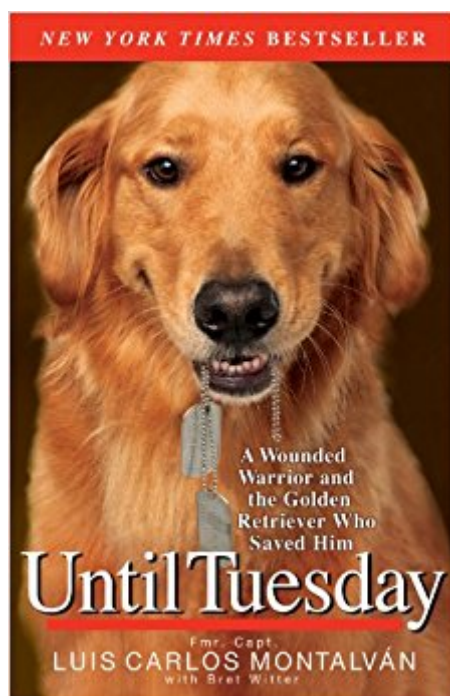


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Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior And The Golden Retriever Who Saved Him



Synopsis

A heartwarming dog story like no other: Tuesday, a lovable golden retriever, changes a former soldier's life forever. A highly decorated captain in the U.S. Army, Luis Montalvan never backed down from a challenge during his two tours of duty in Iraq. After returning home from combat, however, his physical wounds and crippling post-traumatic stress disorder began to take their toll. He wondered if he would ever recover. Then Luis met Tuesday, a sensitive golden retriever trained to assist the disabled. Tuesday had lived among prisoners and at a home for troubled boys, and 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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Customer Reviews

"Wow, what a book! I think I was crying on page 3. The collision of man and dog, and the unbreakable bond they form, made my heart leap. Everyone should read this book to better understand not only the ravages of war, but the amazing capacity of the human spirit to rebound. I dare anyone to read this book and not believe in the power of love to heal." -- Lee Woodruff, author of *In an Instant* (with Bob Woodruff) and *Perfectly Imperfect* "A deeply moving story of

service, sacrifice, and restoration. Years from now when critics assemble the canon of Iraq War literature, look for *Until Tuesday* to make everyone's short list. -- Andrew J. Bacevich, author of *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War* "This story of an incredible service dog is both touching and warm. Some of the struggles are painful to read, because they are so real, but that only makes the triumphs more uplifting. In the course of these pages, Tuesday truly becomes a hero, as does Luis Montalván. This book feels like more than a joy; it feels necessary." -- Vicki Myron, #1 NYT bestselling author of *Dewey* "Until Tuesday explores the unique bond that can occur between dogs and people that ennobles both. This book is a moving tribute to the courage and perseverance of a man as well as the love and the devotion of a remarkable and unforgettable dog." -- Larry Levin, New York Times bestselling author of *Oogy: The Dog Only a Family Could Love* "This is a profoundly honest book filled with vital lessons about loss, friendship, war -- and the loving bonds that can save us in our lowest moments. We are all lucky that Capt. Montalván and his dog Tuesday found each other, for in their story we see the possibilities in our own lives." -- Jeffrey Zaslow, coauthor of The New York Times bestseller, *The Last Lecture* "Luis and Tuesday are two true American heroes. This powerful story is a testament to the courage of veterans both on and off the battlefield. The incredible relationship Luis and Tuesday share is a testament to the power of friendship and service. Far too many veterans face challenges when the invisible wounds of war follow us from the frontlines to our lives back home. Luis is a critical voice for our community, reminding every single veteran that they are not alone. Luis and Tuesday have been instrumental in helping to erase the stigma of invisible wounds, and luckily this book is just the beginning of their incredible story." -- Paul Rieckhoff, Founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Author of *Chasing Ghosts* "Luis and Tuesday were one of the original sources of inspiration for my very first piece of legislation. Luis' story of military service, his struggles with visible and invisible wounds of war, and the dog who helped save his life is as compelling on the page as when you hear it in person." -- Senator Al Franken

Luis Carlos Montalván is a 17 year veteran and retired Captain of the US Army where he earned the Combat Action Badge, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. Luis' writing is published by The New York Times, The Washington Post, The San Francisco Chronicle, and The International Herald Tribune (among others), and NPR, CBS, AFP, BBC, C-SPAN, ANP, and Democracy Now have all featured his amazing personal tale and vocal criticism of the war. Luis lives in Brooklyn and is a student at The Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. www.luiscarlosmontalvan.com Bret Witter is the writer behind *Dewey: The Small Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*, which

spent months on the Times Bestseller List and has sold over 1.5 million copies worldwide.

Until Tuesday is much more than the feel-good story about service dogs I was expecting. Luis Carlos Montalván's book provides a brief but uncompromising look at the conduct of America's most recent military incursion into Iraq and the impact it had on soldiers who were placed in impossible positions. It also indicts businesses that discriminate against assistance dogs. None of that should put off dog lovers who want a feel-good story; Montalván's relationship with Tuesday, his golden retriever, is at the book's heart, and it is deeply moving. The first three chapters imaginatively recreate Tuesday's training, including a look at Tuesday's life in prison while he participated in the Puppies Behind Bars program, bonding with an inmate and helping the inmate hold onto his humanity in an inhumane environment. Tuesday also put in time at Children's Village, where troubled kids learn about responsibility and success by helping to train service dogs. The next five chapters tell Montalván's story. It mirrors writing that came out of the Vietnam War in its complaint that the nation's leaders lied to the public, neglected the troops, and did too little to help veterans. Montalván -- a National Guard officer who had been in uniform for more than a decade -- arrived at Al-Waleed, Iraq, in 2003. While working to keep arms and insurgents from crossing into Iraq from Syria, Montalván was ambushed and barely escaped assassination. The severity of his injuries (both physical and psychological) wasn't immediately recognized -- in part because he refused the requests of medics who wanted him to go to Baghdad for x-rays. When he returned to Colorado in 2004, the "counseling" he received was brief and ineffective; he feared that requesting more would jeopardize his military career. Unable to adjust to a quiet life and faced with a failed marriage, he signed up for a second tour in Iraq and was assigned as a liaison officer to the Iraqi Special Forces. When the Iraqi Army started "a campaign of tribal and ethnic cleaning against the Sunnis" with the tacit support of the American Army, Montalván "could no longer understand what [his] men were fighting and dying for." He felt betrayed by leaders who turned their attention to "the media, the message, the public back home -- anything and everything, it seemed, but the soldiers under their command." After he wrote a critical op-ed that was published in The New York Times, he received an honorable discharge and returned home with PTSD: an umbrella diagnosis that encompassed his feelings of anxiety and paranoia, his withdrawal and isolation, his bitter days and sleepless nights. The final sixteen chapters tell the story I was expecting and that dog lovers will recognize: a story of training and bonding, loving and learning. A dog and man with complementary personalities: codependent companions, mutual providers of support. Although Montalván tells a serious story, he also takes the time to describe Tuesday's playful antics, wonderful passages that

made me laugh out loud. Even in those chapters, however, the war lurks. Some politically-minded readers might not appreciate Montalvn's take on the Bush administration ... or, for that matter, his disappointment with the Obama administration. Montalvn is a bright, emotionally honest man who isn't afraid to express a forceful point of view; it didn't bother me but it might anger some, so be warned. Not all of this book has a "feel good" quality. Until Tuesday tells a personal story; it isn't filled with generalized facts about service dogs or PTSD. I can't say I learned anything new from it, but that might be because I once helped someone with a social anxiety disorder who can't leave his home without the calming influence of a service dog. He was experiencing the same discrimination that Montalvn describes: restaurant managers, worried about violating health codes, mistakenly (and illegally) claim that a dog isn't really a service dog unless its owner is blind. I also live next door to a service dog that assists a woman in a wheelchair. Based on those experiences, and having a golden retriever of my own, I believed every word of Luis Carlos Montalvn's account of how his relationship with Tuesday made it possible for him to reclaim his life -- despite the discrimination he encountered. Tuesday reminded me so much of my own golden (particularly the description of Tuesday breaking training to dive into a swimming pool to steal the other dogs' toys) that I have no choice but to recommend this book. Fortunately, the book merits that recommendation; the story it tells may not be packed with fresh information, but it is memorable and moving and richly rewarding. I would give Until Tuesday 4 1/2 stars if that option were available.

"Until Tuesday" was a great read! I bought it thinking it was all about a dog. It is a story of "Tuesday" but even better, its a story about one of our wounded vets & what it's like for them when they try to return to "normal" life. It talks about their physical wounds as well as their emotional & psychological wounds. It give a clearer picture as to what these men face when overnight they are thrust from a war zone to "normal" living & are expected to adapt overnight. They go thru & see such horrors in the war zone, & those horrors are imbedded in their mind & heart...they don't disappear just because these men set their feet on American soil again. A lot of these men are scared for life. One thing for sure, the man who comes back from war is not the same one who went to war, & probable never will be again. Tuesday was a great help to to Luis, & helped him learn to function in ways he never could before he met Tuesday. I think the government should provide one of these specially trained therapy dogs to each & every vet when he returns home from war. We owe them at least that much to show our gratitude.

When I first saw the cover of "UNTIL TUESDAY: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who

Saved Him" I thought this would be a nice, easy read, feel good story involving a Golden Retriever. Since I own a Golden - who also has an unusual name -- I thought this would be a good read on my Kindle. This book ended up rocking me down to my soul. I had a hard time putting it down, as I would read in bed until I could not stay awake any longer. The book chronicled the story of U.S. Army Captain Luis Carlos Montalván who sustained severe back and brain injuries during his second combat tour of duty in Iraq. After returning home, his physical wounds and post-traumatic stress disorder sent his life into a tailspin that seemed to be headed for disaster. This was until Captain Montalván became involved with a non-profit organization that teamed disabled military veterans with service dogs. K-9 Tuesday and the Captain became partners who learned to trust each other and they formed a bond of love. Eventually Tuesday helped Captain Montalván out of the depth of despair helping him to regain independence and to eventually become an award-winning writer. This story of the author's struggle and the training of service dogs was truly fascinating. I don't know how anyone after reading this book could not become an active advocate for providing service dogs to veterans in need. Read it. You will thank yourself you did.

This book brought into an acute focus the debilitating effects of PTSD. One can argue the root causes, whether it is guilt of one's involvement in a war they no longer believed in, or even never did, or the trauma of the effects of war on other human beings, or perhaps these and other reasons as well. But the fact is that many thousands have been exposed to horrors we likely will never understand. However, thanks to *Until Tuesday*, I can much better understand what PTSD is, and how it affects the human condition. This is one of many legacies Captain Montalvan will leave behind. I also much better understand how service animals are trained and the invaluable service they can provide. Captain Montalvan rebounded well enough from his PTSD to earn a Masters Degree in journalism from Columbia University, and he put his education to work with this book and numerous articles in major newspapers and websites. I certainly wish this book had a happy ending, but the reality is there is often no happy ending to the effects of war. It kills, it maims, and it cripples those who survive it. R.I.P. Captain Montalvan.

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