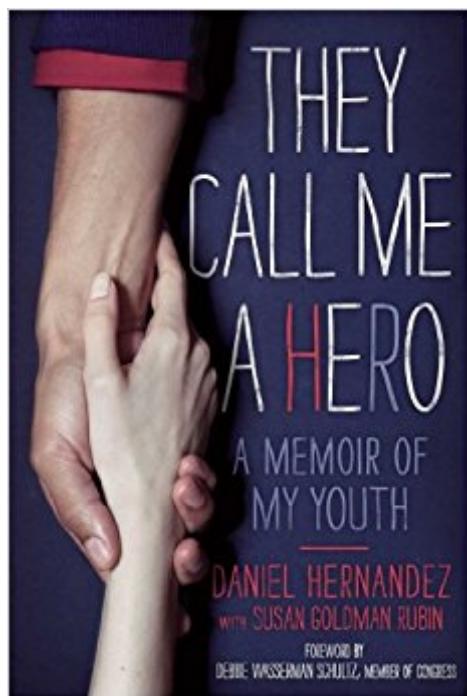


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They Call Me A Hero: A Memoir Of My Youth



Synopsis

Daniel Hernandez helped save the life of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, and his life experience is a source of true inspiration in this heartfelt memoir, “an absorbing eyewitness view of a shocking event wrapped in a fluent, engaging self-portrait.” “I don’t consider myself a hero,” says Daniel Hernandez. “I did what I thought anyone should have done. Heroes are people who spend a lifetime committed to helping others.” When Daniel Hernandez was twenty years old, he was working as an intern for US Representative Gabrielle Giffords. On January 8, 2011, during a “Congress on Your Corner” event, Giffords was shot. Daniel Hernandez’s quick thinking before the paramedics arrived and took Giffords to the hospital saved her life. Hernandez’s bravery and heroism has been noted by many, including President Barack Obama. But while that may have been his most well-known moment in the spotlight, Daniel Hernandez, Jr., is a remarkable individual who has already accomplished much in his young life, and is working to achieve much more. *His Story* explores Daniel’s life, his character, and the traits that a young person needs to rise above adversity and become a hero like Daniel. “His story is inspiring not only for his bravery during the shooting, but also for his commitment to education advocacy and public service, including his appointment to Tucson’s Commission on LGBT issues and election to the local school board. Photos of Hernandez with family, friends, colleagues, and political figures are included.”

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0930 (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (February 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442462353

ISBN-13: 978-1442462359

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,017,012 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > LGBT Issues #79 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Political #167 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Hernandez, an ambitious intern for Gabby Giffords, was the first to reach her when she was shot on January 8, 2011. Having had some medical training as a phlebotomist, he knew to elevate her head and put pressure on her wounds until the paramedics arrived. He then rode with her in the ambulance and called her friends to report the shooting. Hernandez recounts his life as a gay Hispanic man growing up in the Arizona school system. He loved school and learned English quickly once the bilingual program was banned. A driven kid, he was bullied in middle school for being so focused on his schoolwork and for his large size. In high school, he took courses to be a nursing assistant and phlebotomist and campaigned for Hillary Rodham Clinton. After graduating, Hernandez attended the University of Arizona, had a job as a phlebotomist during the day and began working as an intern for Giffords in the evenings. His memoir is clear and organized, if a bit boring when he describes his focused early life. The heroic young man's story will be appreciated by politically minded youths as well as those looking for a role model.-Kathy Lyday, South Caldwell High School, NC
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"I met Daniel Hernandez and came away feeling invigorated about America's future. We all watched Daniel in an incredible moment of heroism. Now, he's made a life of service and whether he stays in local politics or hits the national stage, he will inspire America for a long time." (Erin Burnett, anchor of CNN's *Erin Burnett OutFront*) "On a day of enormous tragedy, we saw great bravery and compassion. When Daniel Hernandez heard gunshots that fateful day, he ran toward them, ultimately saving lives. This moving memoir tells the story of how Daniel became the quick-thinking, courageous and generous young man who would become a national hero." (Nancy Pelosi) "Daniel Hernandez is a true American hero. I have had the pleasure of meeting him, and it reminded me why I love this country: Only in America can a young boy whose mother was an immigrant land an internship with his Congresswoman and in the most terrifying moment of his life run towards the bullets to save her life. He handled his newfound fame with grace and dignity and continues to inspire people across the country." (Piers Morgan, host of CNN's *Piers Morgan Tonight*) "This account...hits all the right notes. Throughout, [Daniel Hernandez] comes across as self-assured but not full of himself, conscious of but not obsessed with

his image and his status as a multiple role model, opinionated but not angry or preachy. An absorbing eyewitness view of a shocking event wrapped in a fluent, engaging self-portrait." (Kirkus Reviews)"[This] tense, moment-by-moment recounting of the shooting spree is gripping...Throughout, Hernandez strikes a tone that is humble, earnest, and impassioned, and his story is inspiring not only for his bravery during the shooting, but also for his commitment to education advocacy and public service." (Publishers Weekly) "Daniel's now-famous bravery is matched only by his remarkable sense of duty and deep respect for public service. His story should be required reading for young people wondering if and when they can make an impact on the world. The answers are "yes" and "right now." (Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Institute) "Daniel Hernandez is a shining example of civic duty and resilience in the face of hardship. His story will inspire young people everywhere and remind us all that there are true heroes among us." (Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief, Huffington Post Media Group) "Daniel Hernandez did not become an extraordinary man on that horrible day in Tucson; that's just when the world learned of him." (Shepard Smith, anchor of The Fox Report on FOX News Channel)"The heroic young man's story will be appreciated by politically minded youths as well as those looking for a role model." (School Library Journal)

Daniel is a very sincere, intelligent young man who is truly a hero. I am impressed by him and by the book. He had become involved because of his sense of community service. The results of the horrific events of the January morning likely would have been much had Daniel and others not reacted as they did. He is very involved in making the world a better place. I highly recommend the book and look forward to following the career of Mr. Daniel Hernandez.

An excellent telling of public service and personal sacrifice by young man placed into very difficult circumstances. Daniel Hernandez, Jr has made, and is making a wonderful life for himself. There is no doubt he will continue to make worthwhile and important contributions to his community, his family, and his country. That makes story inspirational to all those who know his story.

Good start to this book but not enough about the actual day. Too much about Daniel and his family. Dr. Michael Lemole not even mentioned. He too saved Gabby's life that day and the day after. Daniel was most definitely a hero on that fateful day.

Wonderful memoir of a regular young American who does the right thing in a moment of crisis. I think every young person should read this book to see how obstacles CAN be overcome, to see how experiences change our goals and provide meaning to our lives.

This young man saved Congresswoman Giffords life 2 yrs ago when she was shot in the head. He's written a wonderful book about his life.

America got to know Daniel Hernandez through the lens of the frenzied and heartbreakng days following the shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, AZ. This attack left six people dead and 13 others wounded. Daniel, an intern for Congresswoman Giffords was one of several people who rushed to help those shot, maintaining composure in the midst of complete chaos and after having seen several of his co-workers shot. Daniel undoubtedly helped save Congresswoman Giffords life that fateful morning. In 'They Call Me A Hero' Daniel gets to tell his reaction to that morning, but the more interesting aspect of the book comes from the reason he did the book in the first place: as a Gay, Latino American, it was time to get his story out about the obstacles that both LGBT and Latino Americans face. There are many people who, if it were up to them, wouldn't have had Daniel there with the Congresswoman that morning, either because he was Gay and didn't belong, or because he was Latino and didn't belong... and so, "The Call Me A Hero" is also a play on how one minute you can go from being thought of as lots of things that I won't repeat here, and the next minute you are a "hero." Would Rep. Giffords have survived the shooting if Daniel wasn't there that morning? We don't know the answer to that question, just like we don't know effect of preventing others from serving, working, succeeding, simply because they are Gay, or because of their skin color, or gender. Daniel's story is the story of how America is stronger when we unite as Americans rather than divide into our individual prejudices.

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