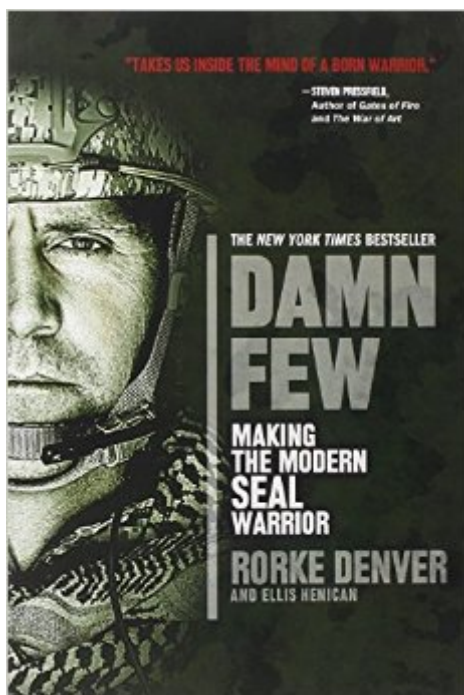


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Damn Few: Making The Modern SEAL Warrior



Synopsis

From leadership expert, former Navy SEAL, "American Grit" feature player, and author of *Worth Dying For: A Navy SEAL's Call to a Nation*, Rorke Denver, the bestselling account of how he helped create the U.S. Navy SEALs of today. Rorke Denver trains the men who become Navy SEALs--the most creative problem solvers on the modern battlefield, ideal warriors for the kinds of wars America is fighting now. With his years of action-packed mission experience and a top training role, Lieutenant Commander Denver understands exactly how tomorrow's soldiers are recruited, sculpted, motivated, and deployed. Now, Denver takes you inside his personal story and the fascinating, demanding SEAL training program he now oversees. He recounts his experience evolving from a young SEAL hopeful pushing his way through Hell Week, into a warrior engaging in dangerous stealth missions across the globe, and finally into a lieutenant commander directing the indoctrination, requalification programs, and the "Hero or Zero" missions his SEALs undertake. From his own SEAL training and missions overseas, Denver details how the SEALs' creative operations became front and center in America's War on Terror--and how they are altering warfare everywhere. In fourteen years as a SEAL officer, Rorke Denver tangled with drug lords in Latin America, stood up to violent mobs in Liberia, and battled terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan. Leading 200 commando missions, he earned the Bronze Star with V for valor. He has also served as flag aide to the admiral in charge and spent the past four years as executive officer of the Navy Special Warfare Center's Advanced Training Command in Coronado, California, directing all phases of the basic and advanced training that prepare men for war in SEAL teams. He recently starred in the film *Act of Valor*. He is married and has two daughters. Ellis Henican is a columnist at *Newsday* and an on-air commentator at the Fox News Channel. He has written two recent New York Times bestsellers, *Home Team* with New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton and *In the Blink of an Eye* with NASCAR legend Michael Waltrip. With all the SEALs' recent successes, we have been getting a level of acclaim we're not used to. But something important has been missing in this warm burst of publicity. Correcting that is my mission here. My own SEAL dream was launched by a book. My hope is that this one teaches lessons that go far beyond the battlefield, inspiring a fresh generation of warriors to carry on that dream. -Lieutenant Commander Rorke Denver

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Hachette Books; First Edition edition (January 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401312802

ISBN-13: 978-1401312800

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (530 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #93,209 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Middle East](#) #184 in [Books > History > Military > Intelligence & Espionage](#) #334 in [Books > History > Middle East](#)

Customer Reviews

Some may wonder why I, a romance novelist, am reviewing *Damn Few*, a book about training America's elite warriors, the Navy SEALs. That's easy to answer. It's because I am a romance novelist. I write books wherein the male lead is always a hero: a man who does the right thing for the right reasons. I've read and reviewed quite a few military memoirs. I admire men who put themselves in harm's way for the greater good of their fellow soldiers and their country. Rorke Denver, former head of Basic and Advanced SEAL Training is one of these men. In his book, he shares his own experience as a SEAL and later as the man who directed SEAL Training, as well as his philosophical insights into the mental and emotional makeup of a candidate who successfully completes SEAL training and wins the Trident, the gold pin that is the visible symbol of being a SEAL. Of all the books I've read about Navy SEALs, this is the first that offers the perspective of an officer who was an active duty SEAL and who was the officer in charge of a SEAL team. Denver shows the hard decisions an officer must make to consider the risk and reward of every operation, to deploy his team effectively, and to know that every decision he makes will affect not only a SEAL in his command but also the wife, children, parents, and siblings waiting stateside for that SEAL to return. Although not characterized by "war stories" of firefight after firefight, Denver's story has power that comes from the emotion and philosophy he infuses. To be perfectly honest, he had me from the first line of the dedication: "For my wife, my heartbeat." There is not a woman on this earth who would not be affected by such a declaration of love.

I chose the Enhanced Edition through iBooks in order that I would get the audio version of the author describing his experience. I also have a hard copy I will treasure. The book for me was a continuation of a novice's outlook of the true meaning of Act of Valor other than what the word depicts. I had seen the movie and was moved by the authenticity and portrayal of every SEAL. One

knew the SEALs were a close brotherhood and the special operations team you wanted in every terrorist act. I lived through the Vietnam era and the world for a period of time at least the United States appeared safe. The landscape changed on 9/11. Each one of us can remember where we were sitting, what we were doing, and how our minds and bodies reacted to the horror and what potentially may happen. As the reader moves through the chapters of joining the SEALs, feels their bodies in the cold wash of the Pacific with the SEALs, carrying boats above their heads, running obstacle courses designed for machines, it suddenly brings to light the intelligence, the psychology, the finite details of planning every facet of becoming a seal. It defines the small number in this special breed of warriors. The master plans designed in missions were so strategic, so detailed, that even a dropped M & M from the target was something a SEAL would never miss. Signs, not words, were just an added language that made their entrance and victory over missions accomplished. Threaded throughout the stories of being a SEAL, training SEALs, and leading missions were beautiful quotes from past books Rorke read that influenced his life and influences it to this day. They were woven so well one found themselves in his boots in raw sewage thinking of Winston Churchill and that defined this Warrior.

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