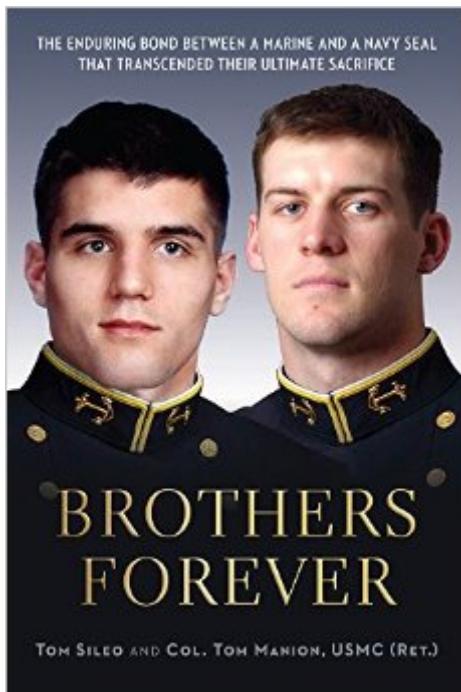


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# Brothers Forever: The Enduring Bond Between A Marine And A Navy SEAL That Transcended Their Ultimate Sacrifice



## Synopsis

Four weeks after Navy SEALs had killed Osama bin Laden, the President of the United States stood in Arlington National Cemetery. In his Memorial Day address, he extolled the courage and sacrifice of the two young men buried side by side in the graves before him: Travis Manion, a fallen US Marine, and Brendan Looney, a fallen US Navy SEAL. Although they were killed three years apart, one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, these two best friends and former roommates were now buried together&#151;&#147;brothers forever. •Award-winning journalist Tom Sileo and Travisâ™s father, former Marine colonel Tom Manion, tell the intimate and personal story of how these Naval Academy roommates defined a generationâ™s sacrifice after 9/11, and how Travis and Brendanâ™s loved ones overcame heartbreak to carry on in their memory. From Travisâ™s incredible heroism on the streets of Fallujah to Brendanâ™s anguished Navy SEAL training in the wake of his friendâ™s death and his own heroism in the mountains of Afghanistan, Brothers Forever is a remarkable story of friendship, family, and war.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The co-writer of this book, Tom Manion, tells the heartfelt and devastating story of his son Travis Manion and one of his son's best friends, Brendan Looney, and how they both gave their lives for what they believed in. The two met in 2001 at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where they both graduated before being commissioned. They became instant and lifelong friends. The book goes into detail about the training both men went through and the difficult decisions each

made about their commissions. One of the most compelling factors that makes this book such a powerful read is that the authors include the details of many of the battles that Travis was involved with and what his thoughts are throughout the battle. It's difficult for someone who has never been in wartime battles and conflicts to imagine what the thought processes are that go through a soldier's mind. Another amazing part of the book is how the authors capture the pain of the family when the two soldiers lose their lives for their country. The families have to live with the worry and the fears everyday that their loved ones are deployed. The sorrow and sadness are overwhelming when those fears become reality. Readers also get a sense of how proud the soldiers are to serve and protect. There are many, many jobs where people put their lives on the line every day. The difference is that when a person serves as a police officer or a fireman, they get to go home to their families and friends at the end of each day. Service men and women put their lives on the line day in and day out and never leave their workplace and don't get to see their families for months on end. They do have the support of their fellow soldiers. The two brave soldiers in this story considered themselves brothers forever. They are buried next to each other in Arlington National Cemetery. It's a powerful read and is a stark reminder of what the last 13 years of fighting these two wars has been about.

This story brings tears to my eyes. LT Brendan Looney was the kindest and most down to earth person I knew. He was and continues to be my role model. I remember hearing the news and I just broke down. You fought to protect your country and your brotherhood with Travis is one that was truly genuine. This is truly a good read and a lovely tribute.

I just received this book yesterday and I could hardly put it down for a few hours of sleep last night. As soon as possible, I finished it today. What an amazing story of courage, bravery, sacrifice and love of country. It was not only well-written, but inspiring. I loved the fact that it had so many accounts from different service members and their families. While this story is about a Marine and a Navy Seal, it is also about all who selflessly serve for freedom and love of country. My deepest thanks to the Manion and Looney families for their sacrifices and for sharing their story.

I have been anxiously waiting for this book to release. I have had the pleasure of meeting Tom Manion and the family of Travis Manion as well as the wife of Brendan Looney at the "If Not Me Then Who" 2013 Gala where I took photos. This book was very emotional and portrayed the bond and brotherhood that was formed between these two men and the courage they had. This book was

beautifully written and I will gladly encourage anyone to read it. My boyfriend is deployed at the moment and I will be sending him a copy of this book. This book and the Travis Manion foundation has forever touched my heart.

Brothers Forever is not a typical read for me, but in honor of Memorial Day, I decided to accept it for review. I was intrigued by Travis and Brendan's stories and liked the fact that Travis' father, a retired Marine, wrote the book. It took me a little bit (probably 20% of the book) to really get invested in the story, because there was a lot of back story for both men. But once I got to know Travis and Brendan, there was no way I could put this book down. Brothers Forever is told in the third person, with Travis' father as the narrator. I have such great respect for Colonel Manion, having the fortitude to write the story of his son's military career, and eventual death. I admired Colonel Manion for telling Travis and Brendan's stories, working through his grief over losing his son, in order to educate the American people about exactly what the members of our military go through to keep us safe. I loved knowing exactly how Travis felt about being a Marine, and how he never gave his willingness to sacrifice his life for the American people a second thought. It was just second nature to him. One of my favorite parts of Brothers Forever occurs when Travis is at a NFL game. He looks around at the crowded stadium and reflects that he would die for each and every person in the stadium, to keep them safe. Travis' devotion to preserving America's freedoms and people was incredibly poignant, and so heartfelt that it brought me to tears. How many of us could say the same? Not many, in my opinion. Reading Brothers Forever gave me an even greater level of respect for our armed forces. I liked that both Brendan and Travis' tours in Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan were told in so much detail. I had no idea the kinds of things our soldiers go through, and both men's bravery, strength, and sacrifice just blew me away. The details of their day to day lives while in service overseas made Brothers Forever fascinating for me. Even though I knew going in that Brothers Forever was about two fallen heroes, and therefore I knew both Travis and Brendan were going to die in the course of the book, that knowledge didn't stop me from crying my eyes out when each passed on. Their families' grief was palpable, and I could feel my heart actually ache for those the heroes left behind. I loved the epilogue, especially how Colonel Manion describes how the two families have honored Travis and Brendan by living their lives to the fullest and serving others. The Manions created the Travis Manion Foundation to provide families of fallen soldiers with assistance and support. Many of the Looney family members, including Brendan's wife, Amy, have run the Marine Corps Marathon every year in honor of Brendan. Janet, Travis' mom, created the Character Does Matter program, "which empowers veterans and families of the fallen to deliver

inspirational presentations to emerging leaders."Some of my favorite quotes from Brothers Forever:Travis Manion: "If not me, then who..."Brendan Looney: "Be strong. Be accountable. Never complain." "I DON'T QUIT."I'd recommend Brothers Forever to anyone. It's a well-written, inspiring story, and it's not one I'll ever forget.Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an impartial review.

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