



The Red Bandanna (Young Readers Adaptation)

Tom Rinaldi

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A *New York Times* bestseller

What would you do in the last hour of your life?

The story of Welles Crowther, whose actions on 9/11 offer a lasting lesson on character, calling and courage

One Sunday morning before church, when Welles Crowther was a young boy, his father gave him a red handkerchief for his back pocket. Welles kept it with him that day, and just about every day to come; it became a fixture and his signature.

A standout athlete growing up in Upper Nyack, NY, Welles was also a volunteer at the local fire department, along with his father. He cherished the necessity and the camaraderie, the meaning of the role. Fresh from college, he took a Wall Street job on the 104th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center, but the dream of becoming a firefighter with the FDNY remained.

When the Twin Towers fell, Welles's parents had no idea what happened to him. In the unbearable days that followed, they came to accept that he would never come home. But the mystery of his final hours persisted. Eight months after the attacks, however, Welles's mother read a news account from several survivors, badly hurt on the 78th floor of the South Tower, who said they and others had been led to safety by a stranger, carrying a woman on his back, down nearly twenty flights of stairs. After leading them down, the young man turned around. "I'm going back up," was all he said.

The survivors didn't know his name, but despite the smoke and panic, one of them remembered a single detail clearly: the man was wearing a red bandanna.

Tom Rinaldi's *The Red Bandanna* is about a fearless choice, about a crucible of terror and the indomitable spirit to answer it. Examining one decision in the gravest situation, it celebrates the difference one life can make.

From the Hardcover edition.

The Red Bandanna (Young Readers Adaptation) Details

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Author : Tom Rinaldi

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From Reader Review The Red Bandanna (Young Readers Adaptation) for online ebook

Dotty says

A good quick rendering and I think readers will enjoy, savor and weep. The author tells the story from multiple points of view and Welles and the people in his life become real to the reader.

Quote from end of the book (p 150-1) On September 11, 2001, Welles made a choice that was second nature to him to help as many people as he could. And that choice is something everyone can learn from. We all face choices every day. We choose how to treat our parents, our siblings, our friends and peers We choose when to speak up and when to be silent, when to fight and when to make peace. Often, these choices are small and might seem trivial. But they make us who we are. Welles's final choice was to help. The next time you see a red bandanna, remember Welles--and imagine what the world would be like if we all chose to be helpers.

Olivia Martin says

Unbelievable. Both heartwarming & heart wrenching. As a school librarian & someone who remembers the fears of that horrible day, I also feel a commitment to educate my 5th & 6th graders about that day. Not just about the events of the day, but more importantly the character & legacy of those who stood up to terrorism & who stepped up to help those around them. We can learn so much from these true heroes. This book fits well into my September 11th collection & I look forward to sharing Welles heroism with my students in the future.

Bridget says

Oh man. Get a box of tissues for this one.

Keaton says

IT WAS A GOOD BOOK!

Trevor Bosse says

The Red Bandanna is an amazing book. I have to say this is one of my favorite books I have ever read and I never wanted to stop reading it once I picked it up. Wells is probably the greatest hero I have ever heard of and his bravery is outrageous. He put others in front of him and saved lives. I rate this book a solid five stars.

Melissa Jones says

I remember September 11th clearly, although from a distance living in Houston. I have visited the 9/11 Memorial and tried to imagine the magnitude of the event. I have toured part of the museum, but had to leave before finishing due to being overwhelmed with emotion. I have seen images, read recounts, and watched movies & documentaries. Somehow, I missed the story that everyone should know - the story of Welles Crowther and his true heroism. He is known as the man in the red bandana and although he had the opportunity to save himself, he made the choice to save others instead. I will never see another red bandana in the same way. Highly recommend reading this book, although tissues are needed for every page in the second half of it.

Hunter says

It was sad because welles crowther died

Marisa Farmer says

I'm surprised I'd never heard this story until recently. Definitely a quick, emotional read. 9/11 stories always touch me because I vividly remember that day. This story made me smile and cry. I can't imagine making the choice that Welles did that day. I'll never look at a red bandanna the same.

Rachel Marie says

This was really good. I do feel like I need to read the adult book now. But I would definitely recommend this to kids, it flows really well and doesn't feel like a nonfiction story. I definitely cried a bit reading this, especially since I'm old enough to remember 9/11. I was in 6th grade.

Its hard to believe many kids now don't know this day and I feel like this book does a good job putting the panic and fear that people, especially people in NYC went through on that day. Welles is a beautiful person and a hero that we should all know about. I personally had no idea about this man until reading this book.

Heidi says

This was an emotional read for me. I spent my childhood summers in New York with my younger sister at our Grandparents' home on Long Island. I have many family memories of NYC, Manhattan and the Trade Towers, having eaten at Windows on the World on numerous occasions.

September 11, 2001 is branded upon my memory. I have a deep, visceral reaction to the images from that day. I can barely control my emotions when I see the WTC towers in pre-911 films and images. It is harder to hold back tears when I see them missing from the skyline in post-911 films and images.

This was a book adapted for younger readers and is the first *anything* I have deliberately approached regarding 911.

This young man, his character and courage. His family. The impressions of him from the people he helped to safety that day.

I am finding it difficult to organize my thoughts.

I cannot help but feel that 911 was his destiny for achieving the ultimate in service and sacrifice.

If people were a little more like Welles Remy Crowther, the world would certainly be a better place.

Linda V says

Around eleven years ago I was with my daughter on a school trip to NYC. At Ground Zero there was a woman handing out red bandannas and telling the story of a young man who saved many lives at the Twin Towers. Since then I have always tied the red bandanna to whatever bag I am lugging along with me. It goes to work with me and has traveled around the world. Occasionally someone will ask it's significance and I will retell as much of the story as I can remember. I was thrilled to see this book at the bookstore and learn more about Welles Crowther.

How do the choices we make shape the adult we become? Tom Rinaldi has gathered stories of Welles' life, showing the strength of character that led to his actions on 9/11. The red bandanna Welles always carried helped put together a timeline of that day, showing his decision to lead people to safety then go back to aid more. This young readers edition is a great addition to any school or personal library.

Karen says

This young-adult adaptation of *The Red Bandanna: A Life. A Choice. A Legacy.* tells the inspiring story of Wells Crowther, a 911 hero who sacrificed his own life in order to lead others to safety in the South Tower. The beginning of the book, which traces Wells' early life and desire to be a firefighter, is a little slow moving. However the descriptions of the actual terrorist attack and the story of Wells' parents' eventual meeting with two of the people he saved are moving and powerful. This is a worthwhile read for middle school students, although probably best for 7th grade and up due to some graphic content.

Rebecca says

A quick, but extremely powerful read. I cannot even begin to imagine the courage it took to go back up the stairs. Reading this on 9/11 made it even more poignant. Highly recommend!

Braylen says

I think the book was good. I kinda got bored towards the end of the book because mostly it was just people talking about Welles.

Mahrysa York says

The Red Bandanna was a pretty good book. It's about a guy named Welles who was in the south tower during 9/11. I found it so inspiring how Welles risked his life to help others.
