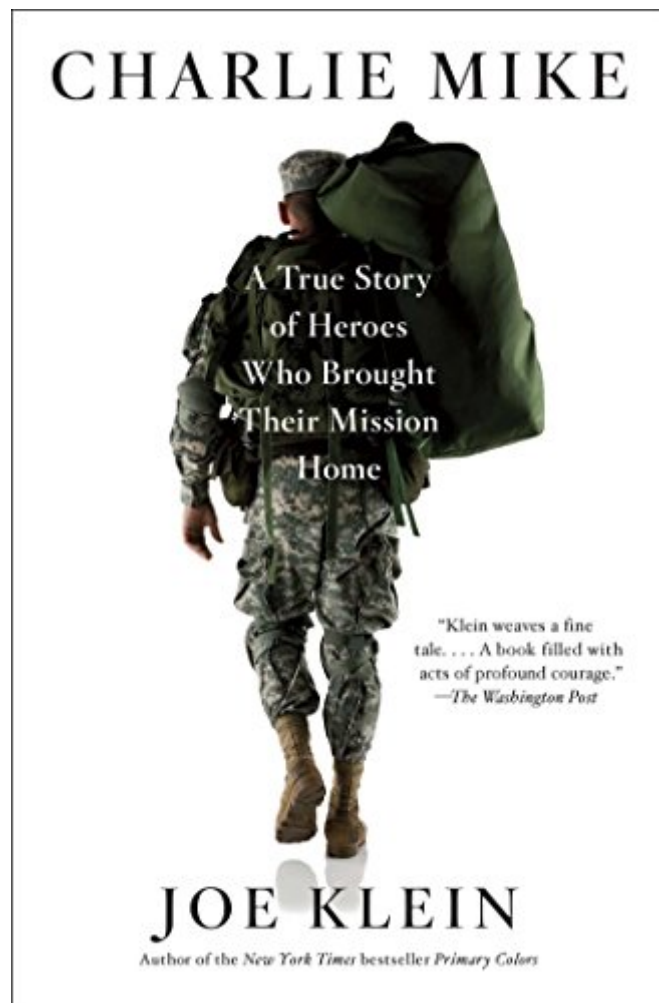




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Charlie Mike: A True Story Of Heroes Who Brought Their Mission Home



Synopsis

This true story of two decorated combat veterans who find a new way to save their comrades and heal their country is “a great look at two of the best veteran organizations going and the incredible humans who make the effort work” (Jon Stewart). In *Charlie Mike*, a true account that “reads like a novel” (Publishers Weekly) and “explodes like a thriller” (The Huffington Post), Klein tells the dramatic story of Eric Greitens and Jake Wood, larger-than-life war heroes who come home and use their military values to help others. Wounded in Iraq, Navy SEAL Eric Greitens returns home to find that his fellow veterans all want the same thing: to continue to serve their country. He founds The Mission Continues to provide paid public service fellowships for wounded veterans. One of the first fellows is former Marine sergeant Jake Wood, a natural leader who begins Team Rubicon, organizing 9/11 veterans for dangerous disaster relief projects around the world. “We do chaos,” he says. “A deep and compelling exploration of a group of young veterans determined to continue serving after leaving the military” (The Washington Post), this is a story that hasn’t been told before—a saga of lives saved, not wasted. The chaos these soldiers face isn’t only in the streets of Haiti after the 2010 earthquake or in New York City after Hurricane Sandy—it’s also in the lives of their fellow veterans. *Charlie Mike* shows how Greitens and Wood draw on the military virtues of discipline and selflessness to guide others towards inner peace and, ultimately, to help build a more vigorous nation.

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Customer Reviews

The telling of the story and the way the characters, all real people, are introduced and developed is absolutely riveting. I started this book just out of curiosity, after seeing it in the bookstore then seeing some buzz about it on Facebook among my friends. I needed a book for my trip, so got it on Kindle for my iPhone and Android phone. After the first few lines, I knew I wasn't going to be able to put it down. I finished it in just a couple days in between packing, working, getting ready for my trip. I finished it on the plane not yet at my destination, wishing I could learn more, wanting to know more about these people. I had met the founders of Team Rubicon during Hurricane Sandy as a volunteer and got to spend time with several of the hundreds of veterans who TR flew in to help people after their homes were destroyed, but even if I hadn't the imagery and the scenes are so clear. I saw the movie of this in my head. This book really lets the reader into the minds and hearts of the four primary people who started Team Rubicon (and now Team Rubicon Global) and The Mission Continues -- first as human beings and good people and then as the heroes they are. The author spends equal time letting you get to know people around them as well, each character rich in different ways. Definitely worth the read.

Excellent book, well written, and easy to read. I have been working with Eric Greitens on a number of leadership events over the past 18 months of which many tell his story featured in The Heart and The Fist and his more recent book Resilience. He is an amazing individual and this book provided more insight into Eric as a child, student, Rhodes Scholar, humanitarian, warrior, and leader; answering a number of the questions I often wondered about but did not ask him. More so, the book told of the origination of his nonprofit for veterans, The Mission Continues, how it was founded, where some of the original funds came from but more importantly more detail on the inspiration behind it. The book also featured stories about Jake Wood, founder of Team Rubicon... another fantastic story of a soldier who came home and realized the world still needed him and he still needed the world to need him. The premise behind these two fantastic individuals boils down to essentially "achieving peace with oneself through the service of others"... It is a fantastic lesson and

one I feel today's younger generations are missing out on... including my own and I'm 42. I found this book both inspirational and motivating. I plan to live out and to share the lessons I've learned from Eric Greitens and Jake Wood with my children and anyone that will listen. There is always someone out there suffering more than you and by helping them, you can change lives including your own. Great book, a must read! Also check out "The Heart and The Fist" and "Resilience". I tell folks in our leadership programs that "The Heart and The Fist" (and now also "Charlie Mike") will make you want to be a better person and "Resilience" will provide you with insight and teachings on how to become that better person.

4.75 stars Charlie Mike is not the name of any person, but military shorthand for "continue the mission." This is the story of some veterans from America's 21st century wars and their reorientation to civilian life. Navy veteran Eric Greitens was the initial driving force behind the organization that grew to be named "The Mission Continues." His life had been filled with a desire to achieve excellence in all things, academics, sports, martial arts, leadership, and service, military and otherwise. That innate urge led him to carve a way for veterans of his generation to transition back to the civilian world. Eric's ideal of a "warrior" and all that entailed convinced him that veterans needed not only to be of service but also needed the camaraderie of fellow veterans while doing so. Many felt isolated from the civilian population and struggled to fit in. Give them a mission/purpose with other vets and they could heal each other and hopefully decrease the astronomical rate of suicide and emotional dysfunction among the men and women who had served. Jake Wood, a Marine veteran of Afghanistan, and his buddy Clay Hunt, were on their way back from volunteer service in post earthquake Haiti, on a plane to Miami, when they found Eric's advertisement in "Outside" magazine. He was looking for veterans who wanted to be part of a force that used their military skills for service to others. Jake and Clay had just completed a remarkable experience in Haiti and both knew they wanted to help at another disaster zone in the future. To their surprise, they found the Haitian people gracious and grateful for the help that they brought. They saw no evidence of the havoc that was described on broadcast TV and in other media. That was the opening for Jake and Eric to join forces. Team Rubicon, focusing on disaster response, and The Mission Continues, the larger organization with a wider scope of service projects result. The Mission Continues has its own website and presently has a large number of corporate sponsors, celebrity board members, and thousands of veterans in its membership. Klein documents the beginning and the extraordinary lives

of the men and women involved in this project. I found this book eminently readable. Klein writes well, packs a lot of information into these pages, and his deep respect and admiration for the people involved in this organization are evident. At times I found him a bit too emotional, but that is just a matter of opinion. It is a book about people who have been to hell and back, some still with one foot in hell, so know that you will alternately cheer and tear when you read their stories. Not all make it back to civilian life. There are undiagnosed traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress (which one psychiatrist refuses to call a disorder because PTS is a normal reaction to an abnormal situation), and the incredible stress of dealing with the Veterans Administration and their byzantine application process. There are broken relationships among the veterans as well as veterans and their loved ones. There is also heroic generosity of spirit backed up with action. The biggest surprise to me was to learn how these combat veterans felt about the people and places where they were deployed.

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