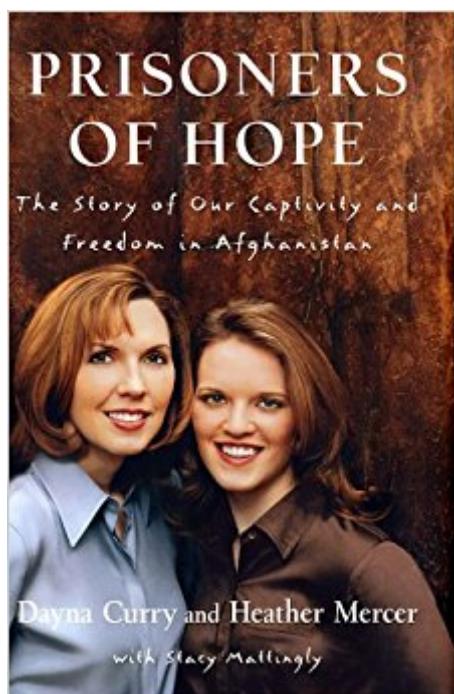


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# Prisoners Of Hope: The Story Of Our Captivity And Freedom In Afghanistan



## **Synopsis**

The gripping and inspiring story of two extraordinary women--from their imprisonment by the Taliban to their rescue by U.S. Special Forces. When Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer arrived in Afghanistan, they had come to help bring a better life and a little hope to some of the poorest and most oppressed people in the world. Within a few months, their lives were thrown into chaos as they became pawns in historic international events. They were arrested by the ruling Taliban government for teaching about Christianity to the people with whom they worked. In the middle of their trial, the events of September 11, 2001, led to the international war on terrorism, with the Taliban a primary target. While many feared Curry and Mercer could not survive in the midst of war, Americans nonetheless prayed for their safe return, and in November their prayers were answered. In *Prisoners of Hope*, Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer tell the story of their work in Afghanistan, their love for the people they served, their arrest, trial, and imprisonment by the Taliban, and their rescue by U.S. Special Forces. The heart of the book will discuss how two middle-class American women decided to leave the comforts of home in exchange for the opportunity to serve the disadvantaged, and how their faith motivated them and sustained them through the events that followed. Their story is a magnificent narrative of ordinary women caught in extraordinary circumstances as a result of their commitment to serve the poorest and most oppressed women and children in the world. This book will be inspiring to those who seek a purpose greater than themselves.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the eagerly anticipated story of the two Christian aid workers from Waco, Tex., who were

imprisoned by the Taliban in Afghanistan shortly before the September 11 attacks on America. Because so many Americans followed their plight in the press, the behind-the-scenes details of their 105-day ordeal will inevitably be riveting. Unfortunately, the narrative is told in a weaving fashion that shuttles back and forth between Curry's voice, Mercer's voice and their joint perspective. Moreover, much of their story of monotonous prison life does not lend itself well to straightforward chronological narrative. Instead, the book is organized loosely by themes, places and people, and often leaps ahead of itself in confusing ways. Despite these frustrations and a surprisingly weak fade-to-black ending that barely mentions God or the faith that has sustained the missionaries throughout, the book is compelling. Readers will learn of the individual paths that led Curry and Mercer first to Christ and then to Kabul. Especially heartbreaking are the stories of all the Afghan families who were relying on the women for life-saving support and who were abruptly cut off at the time of their arrest. Perhaps most powerful is the honesty with which Mercer discusses her spiritual difficulties in captivity. This is not the story of larger-than-life heroines whose faith never wavers in the face of persecution; readers are allowed glimpses into Mercer's very real despair and the rift it caused in the group of prisoners. This gritty sense of the real life of ordinary, believing Americans keeps the pages turning. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

"Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry decided to go to help people who needed help. Their faith led them to Afghanistan. One woman who knows them best put it this way: they had a calling to serve the poorest of the poor, and Afghanistan is where that calling took them. And Heather and Dayna's faith in God sustained them throughout their ordeal. It's a wonderful story about prayer, about a faith that can sustain people in good times and in bad times. Their faith was a source of hope that kept them from becoming discouraged. I talked to them right after their release, their freedom, and I sensed no bitterness in their voice, no fatigue, just joy. It was an uplifting experience for me to talk to these courageous souls." —President George W. Bush

I thoroughly enjoyed Dayna and Heather's account of their captivity before and after 9/11 by the Taliban. Their account corrected some of the reports I saw in the newspapers. Most importantly, it was the local Afghanistan military who defeated the Taliban at their prison location and set the prisoners free. The Taliban were holding the prisoners to collect ransom. The US Special Forces and Seal contingent, with their helicopter, were able to perform the rescue operation only after the local Afghanistan commander bravely led the captives to the designated site for the rescue. It was extremely dangerous at that time and there easily could have been a firefight between the local

commander and the Taliban troops in the area, but fortunately, after Heather thought to set fire to her scarf, the rescue mission was able to locate them, and prisoners were safely evacuated. Their religious faith undoubtedly helped them get through a most harrowing ordeal and the journals they kept enabled them to write this book in minute detail.

Very eye opening account. Loved it!

Dayna and Heather provide a very real and gripping story of life in Afghanistan under the Taliban before 9/11, and after. Their ability to befriend the people of Afghanistan and meet each person where they are in life is truly an inspiration. An eye-opening book - I would recommend it to all.

No, it was not professionally written, but that's not why I read it. I enjoyed it! What a story. I especially liked Heather's honesty and forthrightness about how she coped with her circumstances. Honesty like that is refreshing. People need to be real and she was. I appreciated Dayna's side too! She walked it out with the Lord and he brought her through. I would highly recommend this book.

With the pre-conceived idea of what this part of the world is like, it was truly a pleasure to have a different perspective. Well worth the read!

Wonderful story about afghans and their surroundings. Amazing story of Gods grace and mercy but so much more, His love

Really good read, exciting story, exciting, fun, truly wonderful book. Everyone would really enjoy reading this book and I recommend it.

This was a book that is hard to put down. These women went through very difficult situations but gave so much help to minister to so many lives.

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