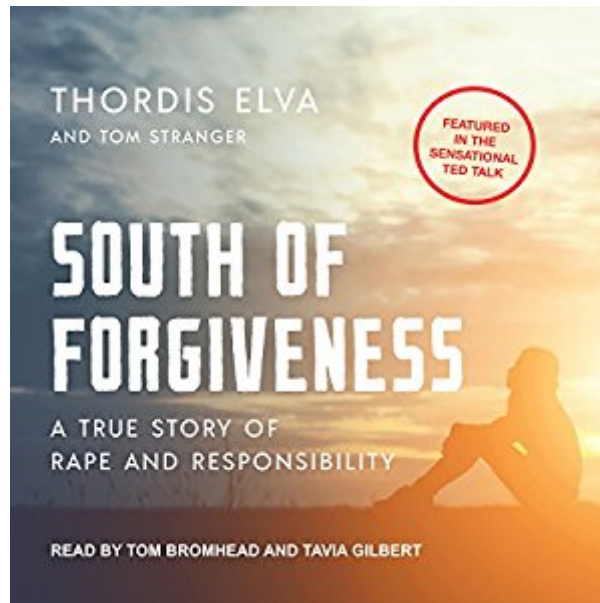




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South Of Forgiveness: A True Story Of Rape And Responsibility



Synopsis

One ordinary spring morning in Reykjavik, Iceland, Thordis Elva kisses her son and partner good-bye before boarding a plane to do a remarkable thing: fly 7,000 miles to South Africa to confront the man who raped her when she was just 16. Meanwhile, in Sydney, Australia, Tom Stranger nervously embarks on an equally life-changing journey to meet Thordis, wondering whether he is worthy of this milestone. After exchanging hundreds of searingly honest emails over eight years, Thordis and Tom decided it was time to speak face to face. Coming from opposite sides of the globe, they meet in the middle, in Cape Town, South Africa, a country that is no stranger to violence and the healing power of forgiveness. *South of Forgiveness* is an unprecedented collaboration between a survivor and a perpetrator, each equally committed to exploring the darkest moment of their lives. It is a true story about being bent but not broken, facing fear with courage, and finding hope even in the most wounded of places. Personable, accessible, and compelling, *South of Forgiveness* is an intense and refreshing look at gendered violence, rape culture, personal responsibility, and the effect that patriarchal cultures have on both men and women. Contains mature themes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have now read this book twice. It is by far one of the most powerful books I have ever read.

Thordis and Tom take us on a journey unlike any other. It is beautiful, heart-wrenching, brave and groundbreaking. Having spent a lot of time reading, researching and working in the field of sexual

assault I found this book compelling and eye opening. South of Forgiveness seeks to break down the shame and silence that perpetuates rape. I'm filled with awe and gratitude for the work it took them to get to the place where they could write this book.

Really brings home the devastation of being raped by someone who is a friend. Good to read that Stranger is taking responsibility for his actions.south of forgiveness

This book is life changing. It challenges those who work with survivors to see things from a different perspective to better serve our survivors.

A wonderful read from two truly amazing people. Should be on everyone's book list- male and female alike.

Amazing, courageous, and inspiring!!! Thank you!

So far so good. She goes off onto tangents a lot and it gets boring from time to time, but I guess a story like this needs filler stories on the in between. All in all, it doesn't keep me engaged enough to read more than a chapter at a time, but it's a great beach or bedtime book.

This is a powerful and moving account of the effects of acquaintance rape set against the majesty of Cape Town, South Africa. It is told from the point of view of both the survivor and the perpetrator. Initially, I was sceptical about wanting to read a book written by a rapist but I was surprised by both authors' sensitivity and nuanced understanding of sexual assault. The male author, Tom, doesn't shy away from what he did but rather seeks to understand why he did it. I found that Thordis' empathy and bravery in writing this book with Tom starts a new conversation about the patriarchal underpinnings of sexual violence. A unique and jarring read!

The subject of sexual assault is painful and complex, but this book takes on the subject with grace. Thordis writes in an uplifting, clear, and insightful way. Tom is honest and articulate in his desire to make amends for what he did, as impossible as he knows it is to fully do. Men rarely contribute to the conversation about sexual assault -- despite being the most common perpetrators of the violence. I hope his testimonial will bring more men into the dialogue and movement for change. For women, I hope Thordis will provide strength and inspiration. That was my experience. This book is

for everyone because everyone in some way is effected by this problem. The world needs more stories like South of Forgiveness -- stories of redemption, humanity, and forgiveness. People are capable of the worst deeds, but we have to believe we can change and the world can get better. Five stars for this powerful book.

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