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*Genelle Guzmán-McMillan*

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**Angel in the Rubble** Genelle Guzmán-McMillan

A heart-breaking, gripping, authentic, life-affirming true story for our times from the last survivor to be pulled out alive from under the wreckage of the North Tower of the World Trade Centre.

## Angel in the Rubble Details

Date : Published August 2nd 2011 (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Genelle Guzmán-McMillan

Format : Paperback

Genre : Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Christian, Biography

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# From Reader Review Angel in the Rubble for online ebook

## Apzmarshl says

An account of the last survivor pulled from the rubble of 911.

Genelle immediately gets right to the point without a lot of back story, which was nice. Because she was inside of the building, she's not able to tell the story the way the rest of us remember it. She never saw the planes hit the buildings and never knew until nearly too late, what kind of danger she was in.

It is mind blowing that after a building that large fell on her, anyone was able to find her.

Genelle's main point of the book is her conversion during the 23-27 hours she spent trapped within the twisted metal, shards of glass, and tons of concrete. She began to call upon God, and he answered by saving her life.

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## Kristen says

This book was very special. It was genuine, heartwrenching and lifechanging. I can't really praise it enough. I was so touched by Genelle's story of tragedy and triumph and her retelling of the miraculous events that saved her from being crushed by the World Trade Center collapse has changed me. I am a better person for having read this book.

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## Terra says

This book had so much potential, but it fell short of my expectations. The story would have been better if there had been a time line of what was happening in the big picture while Genelle and her coworkers debated what to do. Some of the problem, too, is that it felt like William Croyle penned HIS words rather than bringing out Genelle Guzman-McMillan's thoughts and experiences. When a person faces death, it certainly is a life-changing experience. The thing to remember is that we all face it. There was a strong attempt to avoid sounding preachy and this made the book feel unnatural. If the point of the story was a spiritual revival and a dedication to the Lord, then say it loud and clear! This is the Good News. Don't turn it into "live a good life." That message has been way overdone, because not one of us IS good enough and never will be. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 Yes, being nice to your fellow man will make the world a better place, but it will not lead to your salvation. Genelle had our attention. Here's what she was afraid to say: "Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'" John 14:6

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## Mary Alice says

I really want to give this book 3 and 1/2 stars, but I don't think I can do half stars. The retelling of living through 9/11 and being buried alive are gripping and moving, but then the story gets repetitive at times, and the writing is not all that great. But, definitely worth a read, and it is inspiring.

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## **M says**

Hearing about all of the disasters going on in the world and hearing the survivors stories makes you wonder what you would do in that sort of a situation. And you come up with a calm clear plan of action. But the truth is, thinking about a life threatening situation hypothetically in the comfort of your own home is so much different then actually living it. Because after the fact you have all of the information. But during the event there is so much confusion that normally you don't have to full story until its to late. I've heard these stories of people who refused to get on lifeboats when the Titanic was sinking because they thought there was no way something that grand and powerful could sink. The Titanic was so sturdy out on the ocean and the life boats that looked so small on the sea. But by the time they figured out that those rickety life boats were the only things that could save them, it was to late. And the great ship, the one people said was unsinkable, was going into the bowels of the Atlantic.

That's a lot like what people said about the Twin Towers. They were so tall and regal. A symbol of the modern world. Of progress. But being so massive so eye catching they were also a target. But on September 11th 2001 to most people they were offices. Until a shake that changed everything. Angel in the Rubble by Genelle Guzman-McMillan is about that day. To her, September 11th was just another work day. But after a string of events she ended up piled under the wreckage of the second tower for 27 hours. That's right 27 hours. And lived to write a memoir about it.

Genelle was raised religious but had fallen out of practice as the years went on and she moved to New York. But under the wreckage she found salvation in God. Obviously I am a religious person but in a different way then she is. Regardless it was still inspiring to read her story of survival. It was also heart breaking to learn about the people that would not make it out alive. You know going in what was going to happen, and though that there was no way all of the people escaping with her would make it out alive but being as hopeful as I am, reading Angel in the Rubble I hoped a miracle would happen and they would live.

Genelle promises that if she lives through this harrowing experience she would stop taking life for granted. Someone, and I forget who once said that "life was wasted on the living." And that is very true. Most of us take life for granted and sadly it normally takes a huge personal tragedy for people to realize how precious life is and how lucky we are to still be living it. I know that's what happened to me. The world is a beautiful place, even if it doesn't always seem that way. Put there is so much beauty around us if you were to just slow down and soak it in. So that is my challenge to you. Live each day like its your last. Because you never know when it might just be.

[www.liveittothefullest.com](http://www.liveittothefullest.com)

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## **Sue says**

Beautiful story.

Read it in ONE day, front to back--fastest I've ever read a book. Scintillating, fantastic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlhju...>

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### **Lindy says**

This is the second time I have read this book. It's a book you can't forget. It is so inspiring and unforgettable. Thank you Genelle for sharing your story of survival and your faith in God.

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### **Clare Cannon says**

A very impressive account of the last survivor of 9/11 to be pulled from the rubble beneath the twin towers. Genelle tells what she and her colleagues did after the attack, and how they managed to fill the 70 or so minutes between impact and the collapse of the buildings.

But more specifically this is the story of the conversion she underwent in the 27 hours she lay beneath the rubble, and we feel the potency of the questions she asked herself, wondering what we might do in her situation. And we witness the incredible miracle of her rescue, dazzled at how the pieces of the picture fit together.

Her account reveals her re-connection with her Christian faith and the strength it gives her to see her continuing ordeal as an opportunity to improve her life; readers of all creeds (or none) will find it inspiring. [www.GoodReadingGuide.com](http://www.GoodReadingGuide.com)

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### **Michelle says**

The only book I have read about 9/11. An interesting read, and an incredible story of survival. While the first half was engaging, I glossed over the last couple of chapters, as Genelle has obviously been 'born again' and it was too overtly religious for me.

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### **Emily (Heinlen) Davis says**

Riveting. That's really the only word you can use to describe this book. I figured that I would only read the first portion of it and once the towers fell, stop reading it, but I could not put this book down. Her writing style is so easy to read and the story just flows along the pages. You can't stop turning the pages to find out what happened next. Her no-holds-bar account of this terrible day really puts it in a light that helps you, at least it did me, wrap your head around the situation and what the people in the towers were going through. I recommend that everyone read this book.

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### **Sherri F. says**

Well told, inspiring and a quick read for this personal and inspirational story of a very public, well-known tragedy. Of course, all of us of a certain age not only know what we were doing that moment and day and probably have read and watched a lot about 9/11 in the 14 years since. However, I have not ever read or seen

anything about Genelle's story of that day and definitely nothing about her life before or after, and how she reacted, how it affected her, how it inspired her, etc. so I was curious when I saw this book and so glad b/c it was not only a quick, easy read but very interesting and inspiring. Other than maybe being a year apart in age, we have little in common but still felt connected to her and her story and her sharing her wake up call and lessons learned. Even though be the age each of us are now (mid-40's) we know the things she listed, but sometimes you need a reminder or refresher regardless what religion you are, or if you are or aren't religious, or if your more spiritual than religious, etc. you can relate. So for younger readers if you pick up some good tips or refreshers that you can apply, it's a plus and you're ahead of game instead of getting a wake up call later on. BTW, this is her bio/memoir with her and her family, friends & co-workers story, feelings, actions, etc. So we can either read for entertainment or historical knowledge and if we happen to agree or feel inspired or whatever b/c of that, then that is a bonus! I never felt she was preaching or telling anyone else how to live or what to be or do. That's just my 2 cents b/c I read some reviews that she said "was preaching" or "too preachy" (before I actually finished reading it so I kept watching/listening for it) but the funny thing was there was at least one other Bible-thumper that quoted a million verses & claimed author was holding back & didn't preach enough. I know you can't please all the people all the time AND to each their own, etc., etc., etc. BUT like I just said, this was this woman's story and how she felt, her spiritual or religious or ah-ha moments she had, she was sharing with us, not telling us to be just like her...so how is that too preachy OR not preachy enough???

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### **Melissa J. says**

The story of Genelle Guzman-McMillan's September 11, 2001 experience started out riveting. In telling her story, she really conveyed some of the emotions and disbelief that everyone on her floor in the tower were feeling that day.

For me, the second half of her story (following her rescue) came of to me as too "preachy" and even a little judgemental. I don't doubt that this experience brought her closer to God, but I think that the book could have ended long before it did and maybe her message would have been better received by me.

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### **Jill says**

This book is not written by Tolstoy or Dickens, and it is not destined to become a classic. It is, however a touching and an interesting book, a story of hope amid hopelessness, faith amid evil, and a miracle amid a tragedy.

Genelle Guzman had just arrived at her job as a secretary for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in One World Trade Center (the North Tower) when American Airlines flight #11 crashed into the building between the 93rd and 99th floors. Genelle's office was on the 67th floor. Over the course of the next hour, the employees in her office received mixed signals regarding evacuation of the building, with the result that they did not begin their descent down the stairs about a half hour before the building collapsed. Genelle found herself buried in the rubble, her head immobilized by concrete slabs and her leg crushed by a steel beam. She could see no light nor hear no sound and as the hours passed, the likelihood of being rescued grew slim. Yet Genelle never gave up hope. Instead, she used the twenty-three hours before help would eventually arrive to do some serious soul searching and to renew her faith in God and ask for His help. It took rescuers four hours to extract Genelle from the rubble and she became the last person to be found alive in the rubble.

It took her two years of surgeries and rehabilitation to recover from her injuries. Today, Genelle is a different person, who has learned to appreciate life and appreciate second chances. She believes she was spared for a purpose and although she admittedly doesn't know exactly what that purpose is yet, she is trying to live her life in such a way as to make a positive difference in the world.

This is a short book and a quick read, well worth the few hours spent.

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### **Wendy-Lynn says**

As I was watching the 9/11 ten year tributes, I saw an interview with Genelle Guzman, who was the last of the survivors to be pulled from the World Trade Center rubble. Her story touched my heart and I knew I had to read "Angel in the Rubble." September 11, 2001 starts as a typical day for Genelle. She woke up and went to work as a temp at the Port Authority office in the North Tower. After the horrific events occurred just short of 9:00 that morning, the employees of the Port Authority were told to stay put as help was on the way. Genelle and several other employees waited over an hour (I couldn't grasp this as I was reading) before deciding on their own to leave. As they were descending the staircase, at about the thirteenth floor, the tower collapsed on top of them. Genelle was seriously hurt, but thankful that she was alive. Throughout her 27 hours before she is rescued, she reflects on her life and how she lost her faith in God. She asks him for forgiveness and hopes that she can find her way back to Him and her family. At the time of her rescue, she is found by a man named "Paul." Was "Paul" real or was he an angel sent down by God to help find her? This was a very inspiring and uplifting tale of survival.

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### **Brenda Shorten says**

This book was amazing to me. Genelle was buried in the rubble of the World Trade Center for over 27 hours, in fact she was the last person to be pulled out alive. She talks about how her relationship with God changed for the better and the miracles that took place whilst she was buried in the rubble. If you are in need of a feelgood book, this is it.

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