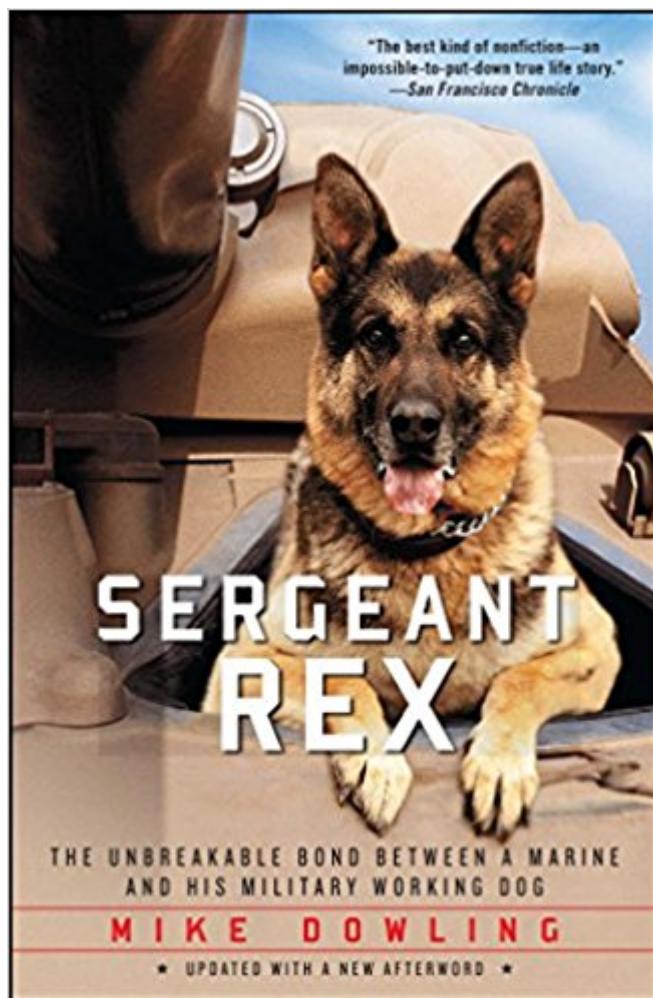


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# Sergeant Rex: The Unbreakable Bond Between A Marine And His Military Working Dog



## Synopsis

The thrilling and inspiring story of a U.S. Marine and his dog Rex, a bomb sniffing German Shepard, who forged a bond of trust and loyalty while serving on the war-torn streets of Iraqâ™s most dangerous city. Called âœa deeply affecting tale of courage and devotion in the cauldron of warâ• by Publishers Weekly, Sergeant Mike Dowlingâ™s heart-pounding account of an unbreakable bond between man and dog takes us into the searing 130-degree heat, the choking dust, and the ever-present threat of violent attack in Iraqâ™s infamous Triangle of Death. In 2004, Dowling and his military working dog Rex were part of the first Marine Corps military K9 teams sent to the front lines of combat since Vietnam. It was Rexâ™s job to sniff out weapons caches, suicide bombers, and IEDs, the devastating explosives that wreaked havoc on troops and civilians. It was Mikeâ™s job to lead Rex into the heart of danger. An extraordinary chronicle of loyalty in the face of terrible adversity, Sergeant Rex is an unforgettable story of sacrifice, courage, and love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is a truly heartwarming and moving story." - "Hollywood Reporter" "Packed with colorful characters and dramatic incidents, "Sergeant Rex" is a moving story of true grit cast seamlessly amidst tough realism, rich, insightful detail and mutual respect." - Seattle Kennel Club "An impossible-to-put-down true life story." - San Francisco Chronicle "A first-rate buddy story from the front lines of the Iraq war." --"Shelf Awareness" "A first-rate buddy story from the front lines of the Iraq war." --"Shelf Awareness" "The best kind of nonfiction -- an impossible-to-put-down true life

story." "--San Francisco Chronicle""This is a truly heartwarming and moving story." --"Hollywood Reporter " "Packed with colorful characters and dramatic incidents, "Sergeant Rex" is a moving story of true grit cast seamlessly amidst tough realism, rich, insightful detail and mutual respect."--Seattle Kennel Club ""Briskly written. . . a moving portrait of a relationship between battle buddies that transcends gender and species." -- "Washington Post"

Mike Dowling enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps in 2001. He was awarded the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his Iraq operations with his dog, Rex. Dowling currently lives in Los Angeles, where he serves on the advisory board of two wounded-warrior nonprofit organizations. Damien Lewis is a lifelong dog lover and award-winning writer who has spent twenty years reporting from war, disaster, and conflict zones for the BBC and other global news organizations. He is the bestselling author of more than twenty books, including several acclaimed memoirs about military working dogsâ "Sergeant Rex, Itâ ™s All About Treo, Judy, and The Dog Who Could Fly.

I've read my share of dog as man's best friend books. Especially the books that show the powerful bonding between handlers and their military working dogs (MWD). I've watched videos of interviews with dog handlers that had to leave their dogs behind when they returned home, especially after Vietnam. Their stories of sacrifice by both dog and handler, shared affection and feelings of betrayal by the handler when he had to leave his dog behind are heart rending. This book is one of the best. In part because it has a happy ending for Rex in spite of the horrific experiences that they had sniffing out IEDs and waiting for a sniper to take either or both of them 'out.' What was surprising to me though was though I thought that I knew a fair amount about dogs I still learned more. Great book.

I finished "Sergeant Rex" by Mike Dowling tonight and found it to be one of the most intriguing and heartwarming books I have ever read so far. One that was emotionally gripping and made me grateful to our armed forces who have protected and served our country. The story of the author and his military working dog, Rex as they deploy to the Iraq War back in 2004 to operate as the first K9 team to go to war since the Vietnam War. Together, as their bond strengthens, they go on missions to sniff out and obliterate weapons of mass destruction the Iraqi insurgents have stashed away, all the while protecting not only American lives in Iraq, but also Iraqi civilian lives. There are plenty of suspenseful moments throughout the book, but also of sheet joy and victory that will have you glued

to the pages. I finished this book in record time. In under a month. Usually it takes me a while to finish a book, depending on how long it is or how dedicated I am to the material within. But this book had me spellbound from start to end. You know a book is good when you bother to read the acknowledgements at the end. The mood of the book is a somber and heroic read. There is no over-mushiness and the author throws in enough of his own backstory to fill you in on how he and Rex met, but doesn't go overboard with his narrative. He makes this all about him and his MWD (military working dog) and the casualties and atrocities of war, as well as the good that he and his dog were doing in Iraq, and that regardless of what's going on around them, there is a silver lining there somewhere. Please add this book to your literary collection, especially if you're an animal lover or have served our armed forces. You will love the story of the bond that can only be had between a man and his dog.

Recently, we adopted a retired military working dog named MWD Fama H176. She is nine years old this month. She served two tours in Iraq. This wonderful book gives us an idea of what she must have gone through. Thankfully, she seems to have adjusted to civilian life without PTSD! Thank you, Mike Dowling, for giving us your story.

Wow, what a wonderful story! Mike Dowling's story of his special bond with his Military Working Dog Rex is full of excitement, wonderment as well as love. The poem at the front pages of the book sets the scene for what you are about to read. There is marked anticipation for what to expect when you turn to the next page; IED, RPG, a pack of angry village dogs or the breaking of the trail for Military Working Dogs USMC protocol. I was at Lackland AFB in the 60's and worked at the Sentry Dog Kennel while awaiting Air Police Tech. School. Several times I witnessed a handler who was being discharged after his enlistment, spend days and nights with his dog before their heart breaking departure. More often I saw the Handler re-enlist rather than leave his best friend. Mike, you and Rex are special Marines! Thank you for your service securing the freedom that I can continue to enjoy with my family and my best friend, my Lab "Colby" I wish the best for Megan and Rex in their retirement. Semper Fidelis

I went to K9 School with Dowling and got to see first hand the potential that he had right from the start. It has been an honor to know him and continue our reminiscing of the days that have passed. Thank you for spreading the word to let those in on the bond we handlers have with our dogs. K9 for Life!

Sergeant Rex was a slow start for me because of Dowling's writing style--a bit jumpy. He frequently began a paragraph focused on one topic and then switched to another, and then to a third topic that didn't appear to have any clear relationship to either of the other two topics of that paragraph. And often the author would begin a new paragraph that had no relationship to the previous paragraph, no segue. That said, the account Dowling laid out of what he and Rex did in Iraq fascinated me. Sergeant Rex kept me up to 2 AM several times.

To have the trust and friendship of a dog is one of the greatest privileges one can have. Rex, the star of this book, is a true hero who was never asked whether he wanted to be one or not. I salute him.

To know a fraction of what our military men and women who serve for us and our country go through is humbling. Being allowed to follow one man and his dog's journey was amazing. This book is a must read. I loved it. It brought out every emotion I have in me. I have the utmost respect for our military and veterans always. This book instills even more if that was even possible.

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