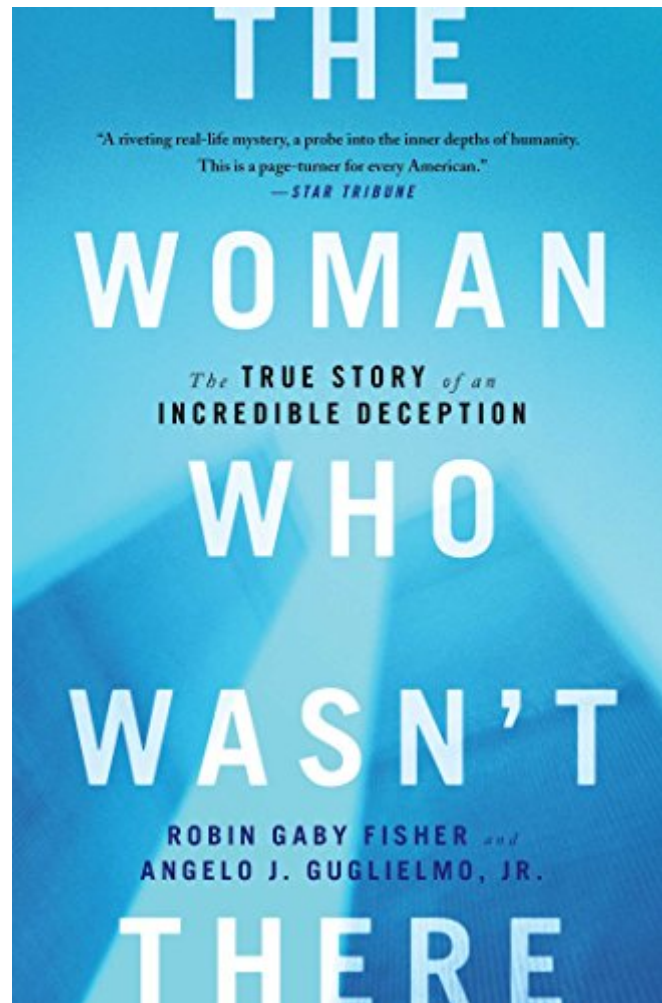


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The Woman Who Wasn't There: The True Story Of An Incredible Deception



Synopsis

It was a tale of loss and recovery, of courage and sorrow, of horror and inspiration. Tania Head's astonishing account of her experience on September 11, 2001—from crawling through the carnage and chaos to escaping the seventy-eighth-floor sky lobby of the burning south tower to losing her fiancé in the collapsed north tower—transformed her into one of the great victims and heroes of that tragic day. Tania selflessly took on the responsibility of giving a voice and a direction to the burgeoning World Trade Center Survivors' Network, helping save the "Survivor Stairway" and leading tours at Ground Zero, including taking then-governor Pataki, Mayor Bloomberg, and former mayor Giuliani on the inaugural tour of the WTC site. She even used her own assets to fund charitable events to help survivors heal. But there was something very wrong with Tania's story—a terrible secret that would break the hearts and challenge the faith of all those she claimed to champion. Told with the unique insider perspective and authority of Angelo J. Guglielmo, Jr., a filmmaker shooting a documentary on the efforts of the Survivors' Network, and previously one of Tania's closest friends, *The Woman Who Wasn't There* is the story of one of the most audacious and bewildering quests for acclaim in recent memory—one that poses fascinating questions about the essence of morality and the human need for connection at any cost.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First I must say this was a captivating and well-crafted story that I devoured in one sitting. When you read the first two-thirds of this book it's as if you are reading the story of an incredibly lucky and heroic 9-11 survivor. However, all along, you know how the story ends: she is a total fraud. The last part of the book tells how the whole thing unraveled and how her deception was exposed, but the central question remains unanswered: Why did she do it? I believe the writers of the story tried to get that answer, but like everyone else who reported this in the news, they failed. The simple reason: Tania Head, the person at the center of the storm, isn't talking. That leaves reporters able to check statements and facts, but not motivations. Still, it is a remarkable tale of a brazen deception that went on for five years in the public eye. The details that unfold in the telling of this story are truly shocking; the breadth and complexity of her deception is quite remarkable. But why? There have been many newsworthy allegations of fraud in literature in recent years. In every case, critics allege that the perpetrators did what they did for financial gain. The embellished story sold a million books, or made the writer rich. There is an obvious motive, and in most cases, the perpetrator tells his side of the story at some point. With this story, there is no evidence of any financial gain. And the perpetrator will not speak. So we are left with no answers. One thing that strikes me as strange is that Tania Head seems to have appeared out of nowhere, all by herself, in 2003. How did she get to be forty-some years old with no "life story?" We heard about the made-up husband, but where are her real family and friends?

In the aftermath of the tragic terrorist demolition of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, many survivors of the massacre connected with one another in a way that only fellow sufferers can understand. As those who lived through the historic day forged friendships with and drew strength from one another, one woman and her amazing story emerged as a survival superstar. Tania Head, who recounted the tragic loss of her fiancé, Dave, in the collapse of the North Tower, told of her terrifying fight to emerge alive from the Merrill Lynch offices on the 96th floor of the South Tower and bore the physical scars that touched the hearts of Americans in New York City and across the nation. She also recounted the story of a man who came to her rescue during the ordeal. According to her, Welles Crowthers was the very reason she was alive. She even met his family, congratulating them on the heroism of their son and commiserating with them on his loss. Not only did Tania join forces with the other survivors, she became their leader when she helped them gain

access to Ground Zero for a private visit, a privilege previously granted only to the families of the dead. After working tirelessly as a member of the World Trade Center Survivors' Network, Tania was elected president of the organization. In that position, she enjoyed the honor of escorting Mayor Bloomberg, Mayor Giuliani and Governor Pataki on the initial tour of the site at Ground Zero. Lauded as an inspiration and a dynamo by her peers, Tania fought her own demons and helped others face theirs. So imagine the shock they experienced when they discovered that not only was their fearless leader nowhere near the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, she wasn't even in the country.

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