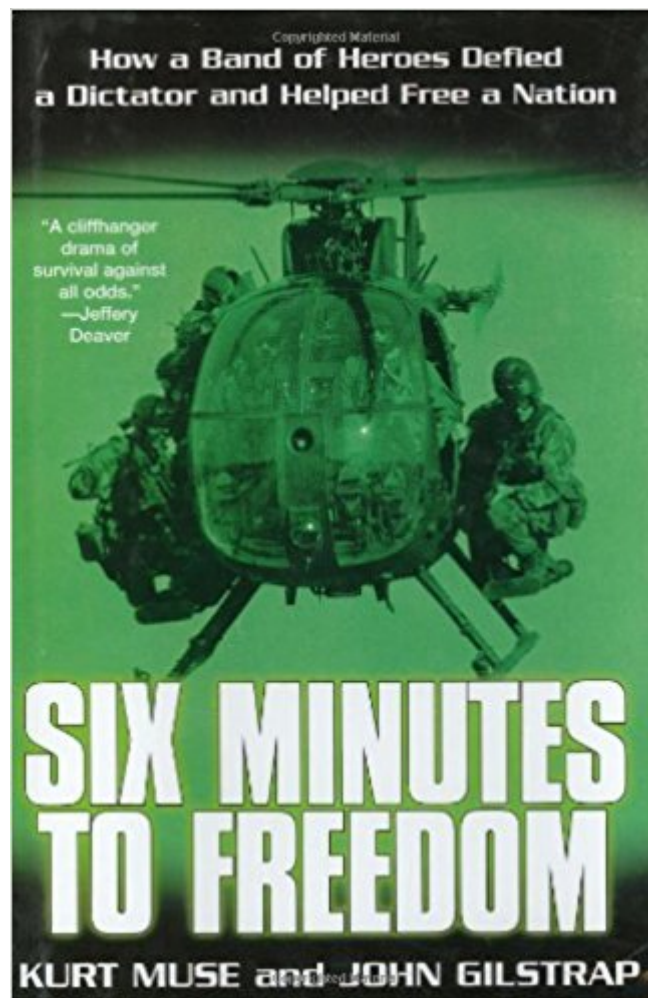




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# Six Minutes To Freedom: How A Band Of Heros Defied A Dictator And Helped Free A Nation



## Synopsis

Kurt Muse handed over his passport at Torrijos International Airport, just as he'd done countless times. Instantly, he sensed that something was wrong. Rather than the cursory glance followed by the whack of the entry stamp, the bureaucrat held the little book in both hands. He seemed to be studying it. And then he smiled. Kurt followed the clerk's gaze to a piece of paper taped to his partition. The sign was handwritten in Spanish: Kurt Muse American Citizen Arrest Him His life was over. Born in the United States, raised in Panama, Kurt Muse grew up with a deep love for his adopted country. But by the late 1980s, Panama was suffering under the regime of Manuel Noriega. Innocent people disappeared. Beatings and murders became commonplace. For Kurt Muse, accepting such a dictator was not an option. For two years, Kurt and a few friends operated clandestine radio stations on low-tech equipment smuggled into Panama. At first, they broadcast on a small scale. But in late 1987, the group realized that they could override any transmission from a government-run radio network, and Radio Constitucional was born. Muse and his compatriots chose Noriega's Loyalty Day address, simulcast on every radio station in the country, for its first transmission. Just as Noriega began his self-serving message, Radio Constitucional seized the airwaves, urging the people to rise up in defense of their freedom. Kurt knew that if his identity was revealed, he and his family would be in grave peril. But he had no idea what kind of terror, confusion, and betrayal lay in store for all of them. Six Minutes to Freedom spins the remarkable tale of Kurt's arrest by Noriega's henchmen and his months of imprisonment; the squalid conditions he faced in Panama's infamous Modelo Prison; his eyewitness accounts of his fellow inmates' torture; and the plight of Kurt's family as they fled for their lives. And it reveals, for the first time, the astonishing details of the long-awaited day when helicopters arrived in a firestorm of bullets to whisk Kurt Muse from under the noses of thugs who had been ordered to kill him. This is Kurt's thrilling and highly personal story—the story of an American hero on foreign soil, who risked his life for his beliefs and for freedom—and became the only American civilian ever rescued by the elite Delta Force.

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## Customer Reviews

"This true story reads better than any fiction...harrowing, entertaining, and inspiring." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Grabs you at the first paragraph and refuses to let go. This true story reads better than any fiction and is impossible to put down. Harrowing, entertaining, inspiring, and very, very readable." -- Col. Lee A. Van Arsdale, US Army Special Forces (Ret) Former Delta Force Squadron Commander

"Crackles with such tension and fear that you'll read this with your heart in your throat. This is everything a great thriller should be ... but it's all true." --Tess Gerritsen, New York Times bestselling author of *Vanish*

"What a read! A courageous family caught in a vortex of international politics, a cliffhanger drama of survival against all odds." --Jeffery Deaver, New York Times bestselling author of *The Twelfth Card*

"A dramatic portrayal of idealism, courage, integrity and fortitude, concluding with one of the most spectacular true-life action sequences ever set down on paper." --John Douglas and Mark Olshaker, New York Times bestselling authors of *Mindhunter*

"A must read for anyone interested in how Delta Force operates." --John Weisman, New York Times bestselling author of *Direct Action*

This is a true story of true heroes. Not only is Kurt Muse, the author and subject an authentic hero, the F Team of Delta Force Assaulters that rescued him from certain death at the hands of the dictator Noriega are authentic as well. Muse fought the dictator with creativity, wit and humor. F Team fought him with bullets and grenades. A measure of the man Muse is that on the anniversary of his rescue he calls each of his 23 rescuers on the anniversary of his liberation, to thank them and to update them on the life and family of the man they saved. A measure of the Delta operators is that even those gravely wounded returned to the service of our Nation. This is a political thriller with a difference: the story is true; only the names have been changed to protect the victorious from the revenge of the defeated. I have had the privilege to meet one of the Delta operators that participated

in the raid on Modelo Prison; no finer friend can you have, no fiercer enemy if you're an enemy of our Nation. Read this book for insight into real people at the center of one of the geopolitical events of our time. It's not just history, it's humanity.

I truly enjoyed reading Mr. Muse's account. Having personally experienced that little piece of history, the book brought so many memories back. Kurt Muse is a hero and an inspirational role model. This is the story of how one person can truly make a difference. Once I started reading the book, I could not put it down.

One night I was watching a special ops show on the Military Channel and they were showing the story of Kurt Muse and the Delta Force team who rescued him. My interest peaked and I ordered the book. The book was amazing and I couldn't put it down. I read it from cover to cover. I expected a story of military tactics, but this was much more. I was amazed by how the book showed the hell that Kurt's family and friends went through. How the different US agencies looked after him during his crisis and ultimately set out to liberate him. Men and women from lowly privates up to the President of the United States had taken an interest in insuring the safety of a nobody in a Central American prison. This book is well written and keeps the reader constantly wondering "What's next?" While the book does cover some of the shortcomings of different players involved, it certainly gives due respect to those who put the plan in action. The members of the Rescue Team have their identities protected in the book, but there is no shortage of humanity in how they are portrayed. If you have any interest in "recent" military ops, this is a worthwhile read. If you just want a non-stop thriller, that happens to be a true story, then definitely pick up this book.

Six Minutes To Freedom is an accurate account of the events and climate in Panama during the reign of terror of General Manuel Antonio Noriega. During the stand off with Democracy, many Panamanians endured a life style similar to the Russian occupancy of East Berlin and the PDF had similar tactics as the Stasi. Those who endured the suffering and survived as did Kurt Muse and his family and associates is depicted in an extremely revealing drama of the way society loses under a Dictator's rule of law. I applaud Kurt and his family for having the courage to share those hardships with us in order to appreciate the Freedom we now have. Six Minutes also reminds us of the days when the United States Military had its Southern Command in the Panama Canal Zone and provided that absolute peace of security provided by their presence and professional stature. A Good Read!

I ordered this after seeing a youtube history channel special on this story. Riveting, amazing story. I hope this is a movie some day. If you really want a glimpse of the underground horrors that maintain dictatorships around the world, the courage of a few people to confront them, and the confusion and clumsiness that can mean life or death under oppression, read this. CIA thriller + Delta Force showdown.

The book was intriguing, especially since it was based on a true story of Noriega's corrupt regime and the co-author's experience as a prisoner and his struggle to survive in Panama. It was well written and the ending was suspense laden but realistic, not a super hero's fantasy tale. The story was gripping as to the realities a dictator can impose with cruelty and death as his instruments to remain in power, It is sad, but true that it seems to be a part of human nature that is repeated over and over again throughout history.

This book made me relive the fear and the anxiety most Panamanians experienced under Manuel Noriega's dictatorship. I believe that the book exaggerates somewhat on the overall role that Kurt Muse played in the huge movement to get rid of the military regime, but the only clear error I found (very small if one considers the length of the book) is that Dr. Hugo Spadafora, who was horribly tortured and beheaded by Noriega's orders, had not previously been an anti-Sandinista guerrilla, as indicated in the book, but an anti-Somoza guerrilla. Another detail that I interpret differently is that I think that the permanent guard soldier who was ordered to kill Kurt Muse if an American invasion took place had just gone to the restroom when the rescue mission started, which I think was an answer to all the prayers for Kurt's life.

I remember watching those events unfold on tv and being in Jr high school. To read that one man who was not politically motivated, but rather morally, had so much to do is awe inspiring. Thank you to all the men and women who stand up for freedom and the right morally for us to follow our God given blessings. May you all never loose hope in all you do. Thank you.

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