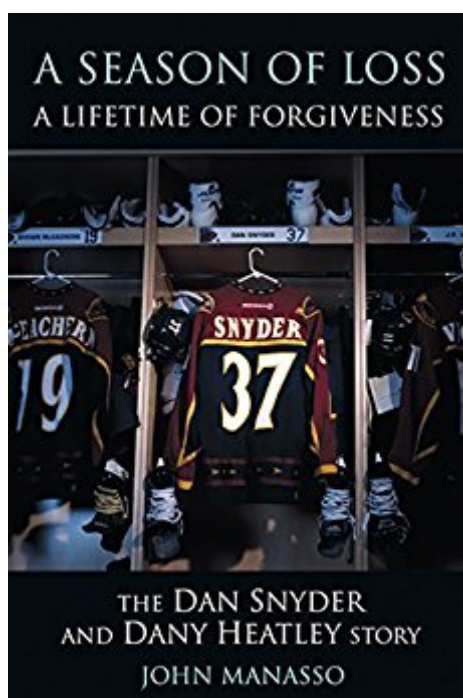


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A Season Of Loss, A Lifetime Of Forgiveness: The Dan Snyder And Dany Heatley Story



Synopsis

This narrative about two boys from different backgrounds touches on family, forgiveness, sport, and making peace with tragedy. Dan Snyder was not a sure thing in professional hockey, but defied expectations; playing for both the minor league's Chicago Wolves and the NHL's Atlanta Thrashers. Dany Heatley, on the other hand, had been tapped for success from the start as a college star and high draft pick. The two made an unlikely pair, but became friends. In September of 2003, the then 22-year-old Heatley lost control of his speeding Ferrari; Snyder was thrown from the vehicle and died six days later. The loss of their teammate, friend, and son sent those who knew Snyder looking for healing or revenge. As the legal story unfolds, so too does a story of forgiveness, rooted in the Canadian Mennonite tradition from which Snyder hailed. Snyder's family, taking an approach to their loss dictated by their faith, chose to make peace with both Heatley and his parents. This story of forgiveness reveals a lesson in loss, hope, and peace in the face of tragedy.

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Customer Reviews

An amazing story of how a tragedy involving two friends brought out the best in a family who

suffered the ultimate loss. This in-depth book by John Manasso is not just for hockey fans. What really is striking and heartwarming about this book is the openness of Dan Snyder's family as they struggled through their grief. The closeness of this amazing family and their beliefs allow them to try to pull whatever positive they can from their nightmare as well as forgive, support, and befriend Dany Heatley. As a reader, you are left drawing strength and inspiration from the Snyders. This is the second time that I have bought this book. First, when it was originally published, and now with the afterward by the Snyder family. And, I can't count the number of times that I have read it, or at least portions of it....sometimes, you just need a little reminder that humanity still exists. Just have your tissues ready.

Tragedy occurred on the night of Monday 29th September 2003 to two NHL hockey players. Canadian All-Star Dany Heatley was driving home his Atlanta Thrashers team-mate fellow Canadian Dan Snyder when Heatley's Ferrari tore apart and landed both occupants in hospital. Snyder, 25 died shortly after as a result of the accident. This excellent book follows the early years of Snyder's battle to hit the NHL big-time and his short-lived Atlanta career. An enormously popular guy suddenly taken away, his good friend Heatley coming to terms with responsibility for his actions. This remarkable story shows how the Snyder family were quickly able to forgive Heatley and testify their wishes that a custodial sentence was not what they would want for Heatley. They wanted him to pursue his NHL career and not end up being deported from the US. The book gives a generous account of Snyder's early hockey days, his huge popularity with practically everyone he met and the shock of the accident. We also find out how the Snyders, the Thrashers and Heatley coped with the tragedy, the goodwill messages and gestures from hockey fans all over North America, the indictment and the final judge's decision the punishment Heatley must face. You may shed a tear or two through this. Well worth a read. The Snyder family are a fantastic example for many to follow.

Awesome job, telling the Heatley, Snyder stories. Good dudes, bad circumstances.

The book arrived in an extremely timely fashion and in perfect condition. The overall speed was fantastic!!

This is the story of the September 29, 2003 auto accident in Atlanta which resulted in the death of Dan Snyder, hockey player for the Atlanta Thrashers. The auto was driven by Dan's friend and

teammate, Dany Heatley, who was charged by the Fulton County District Attorney on five counts. The story is good in its details and facts. Doctors have trouble identifying Heatley and Snyder, not because of the accident, but because both men's driver's licenses and some money had been stolen at the hospital. Teammates come to the hospital in support of the players. Limited hope exists that Snyder would recover; he does not. The writer relates interviews with family, friends, and members of Snyder's home town. One chapter is devoted to the memorial service in Elmira. The legal proceedings took an extended time for resolution. The writer takes a wayward attempt to link the accident with the Ray Lewis stabbing affair which occurred in Atlanta on January 31, 2000 along the lines of how the District Attorney handled the case. I had trouble relating the auto accident which happened after 10:00 p.m. and did not involve alcohol with the stabbing deaths which occurred at 4:00 a.m. outside of a bar. The main focus is on the Snyder family and how the family members deal with the death, with Dany Heatley, with the media, and with other families facing similar tragedy. It is not a "feel good" story, but it is a story that makes you think about how people deal with tragedy. You get to know a little about Dan and Dany and come away from the book thinking about their stories. Although parts of the book do loosely follow the Thrashers during the season, you do not have to be a hockey fan to read this and get value from it.

The title of my review says it all, this is more than a hockey book ... it's more of a book that plumbs the depths of human emotions and explores the ties that bind young men. Yes, hockey is the background, but it easily could've been about other subjects. Manasso does a fantastic job delving into the relationship between Snyder and Heatley and investigates why this on-the-surface "odd couple" (one was a star whose skill allowed him to be handed everything and the other was a mucker who needed every bit of Moxie to achieve his dream) became such best friend and how every twist and turn of their lives brought the two together. If you don't feel touched by the way Manasso describes the fateful events and the grief and sorrow that it brings on to households as well as a National Hockey League franchise, then you are without a soul.

John Manasso's meticulously researched book tells the story of Dan Snyder's tragic death and its aftermath. There's enough background and detail in this book to satisfy hockey aficionados but the real story is about how the Synders and their extended family and community dealt with their son's passing. The book delves into the forensic investigation of the crash that killed Dan Snyder and the subsequent legal negotiations that threatened to jail Danny Heatley, one of Canada's top players. It goes on to reveal much about the family's approach to healing and forgiveness and the vignettes

about what went on with teammates in the locker rooms were touching. This was a great book and John's simple, straightforward writing style makes it an enjoyable read.

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