No Time For Fear

HOW A SHARK ATTACK SURVIVOR BEAT THE ODDS

PAUL de GELDER

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IMPROVISE. ADAPT. OVERCOME. These three words the mantra of the Australian Army resonated with Paul de Gelder the first time he heard them. Paul chased adventure wherever he could find it, from his wild ride as a hoodlum teen and his drug-and-alcohol fuelled stint working in a strip club to hauling his way up to the elite echelons of the defence forces. But trouble hunted him down in the form of a brutal shark in February 2009. Paul lost two limbs, and his career as a daredevil navy clearance diver was flung into jeopardy. Drawing on everything his eventful life had taught him, Paul left nothing to chance in his recovery. He fought through excruciating pain, smashing challenge after challenge, and amazing the medical staff with his will to succeed. His inspiring story takes 'never say die' to a whole new level. From rebel, drug dealer and strip club worker to adventurer, soldier, fitness enthusiast, Navy diver, shark attack survivor, top motivational speaker and mentor to schoolkids across Australia, Paul de Gelder is an exceptional young man. He is now determined to carve out the best future for himself he could possibly imagine. Paul is a true survivor and an incredible inspiration.
I first heard about Paul de Gelder when he appeared on The Jason Ellis Show on SiriusXM radio, and I was immediately fascinated by his story. He was a wonderful interviewee and his sense of adventure and good humour really shone through and turned me on to him right away. I decided to check out his book soon after I heard him on the radio, and I had the book sent straight to my Kindle for a quick summer read. And it was indeed pretty quick, because I did not want to put this book down. "No Time for Fear" is a well-written memoir about Paul's life, his loss, and above all, his love...his love for his friends, his family, his job, and his love for adventure. I was especially touched by his descriptions of how his personal relationships developed after the shark attack. Paul really digs deep and makes himself vulnerable to the reader in this book. He starts out with his strict and impoverished childhood in the "Bush Capital" of Australia and takes the reader on a ride through his wild adolescence and young adulthood, and into his energizing and life-changing role as a member of the Australian armed forces. And he will teach you a bit about the science of sharks in the meantime, just as an added bonus! If you spend a lot of time near saltwater and have any interest in sharks at all, you will enjoy this book. Paul's words echoed something my own father drilled into my brain as a child: "Don't live your life in fear." I also personally felt like I could really relate to Paul's story in part, as someone who grew up with a strict upbringing myself that really brought out my wild side later on.

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