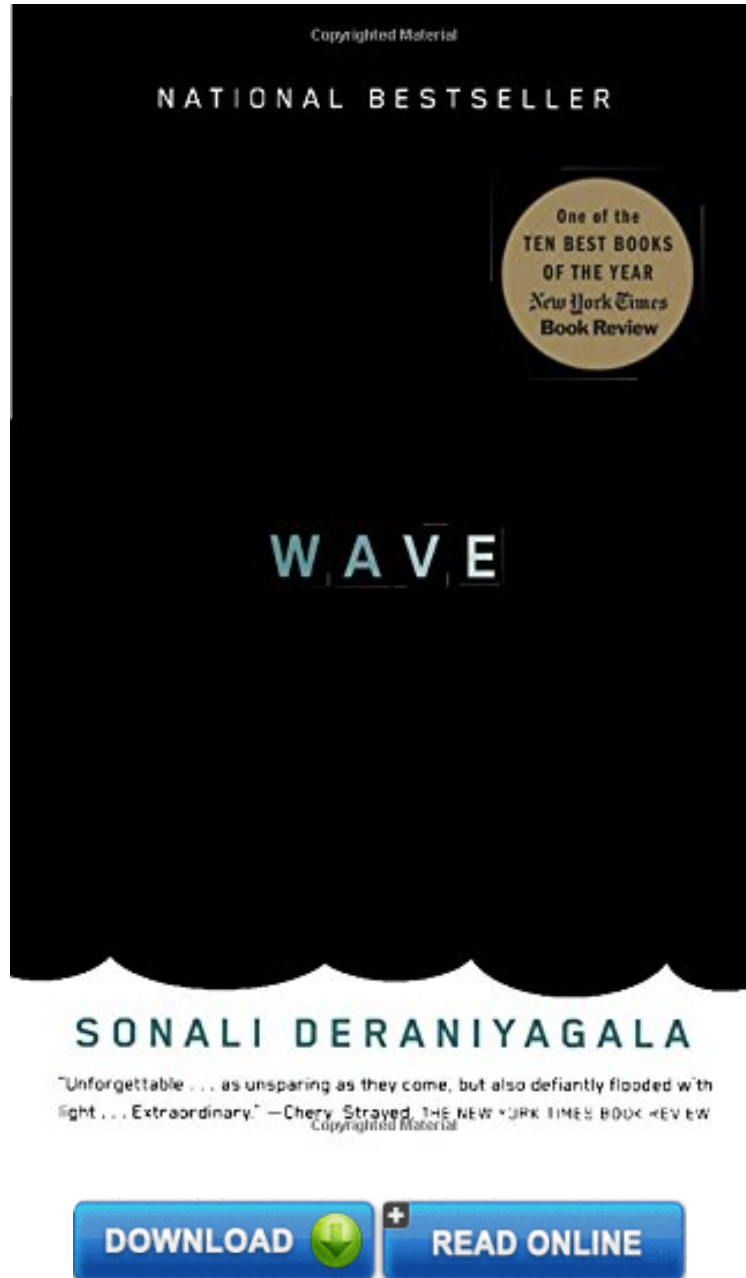


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Sonali Deraniyagala

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.com An Best Book of the Month, March 2013: In an unblinking act of storytelling, Sonali Deraniyagala ruthlessly chronicles the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami that horrifically snatched from her all that mattered. Throughout this fierce and furious book, I kept wondering how someone who lost so much could write about it with such power, economy and grace. At first, she shrieks and grieves openly, angrily; for years she remains stunned and staggered, shamed by the outlandish truth of me. Then, slowly, she allows herself to remember, sharing vivid glimpses of her past. We see, hear, and smell two rowdy little boys, their brotherly scuffling, their muddy shoes and grass stains. By confronting and recreating moments that make us laugh and weep, we accept their absence and root for the author not to quit. Difficult to describe, tricky to recommend, this is a bold and wondrous book. In a wounded voice that manages to convey the snide, sarcastic, funny, and fatalistic personality that survives beneath the pain, Deraniyagala slowly pieces together the elements that represent the life--the lives--she lost. And she brings them back. For us, for her, for them. So brave, so beautiful, in these pages Deraniyagalas family is brilliantly alive. And so is she. --Neal Thompson From BooklistIt was a festive time. Economist Deraniyagala, her economist husband (they met at Cambridge), and their two young sons flew from London to Sri Lanka to spend the winter holidays with her parents. They were all staying in a hotel near their favorite national park on December 26, 2004, the day of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami. Deraniyagala describes their bewilderment as they flee the hotel and her terror as they are swept up by the 30-foot-high, racing wave that brutally changed everything. Only Deraniyagal survived. In rinsed-clear language, she describes her ordeal, surreal rescue, and deep shock, attaining a Didionesque clarity and power. We hold tight to every exquisite sentence as, with astounding candor and precision, she tracks subsequent waves of grief, from suicidal despair to persistent fear, attempts to drown her pain in drink, helpless rage, guilt and shame, and paralyzing depression. But here, too, are sustaining tides of memories that enable her to vividly, even joyfully, portray her loved ones. An indelible and unique story of loss and resolution written with breathtaking refinement and courage. --Donna Seaman The most powerful and haunting book I have read in years. Michael OndaatjeUnforgettable. . . . The most exceptional book about grief Ive ever read. . . . [Deraniyagala] has fearlessly delivered on memoirs greatest promise: to tell it like it is, no matter the cost. . . . As unsparing as they come, but also defiantly flooded with light. . . . Extraordinary. Cheryl Strayed, The New York Times Book Unforgettable . . . It is a miracle Deraniyagala lived. The fact that she could write such a memoir, bringing those she loved to life so completely that they breathe on the page, is itself a miracle. Vanity Fair Out of unimaginable loss comes an unimaginably powerful book. . . . I urge you to read Wave. You will not be the same person after youve finished. Will Schwalbe Vivid. . . . What emerges from this wizardry most clearly is, of course, Deraniyagala herselfcarrying within her present life another gorgeously remembered one. San Francisco Chronicle An amazing, beautiful book. Joan DidionStories of grief, like stories of love, are of permanent literary interest when done well. . . . Greatness reverberates from [Deraniyagalas] simple and supple prose. The New York Times Turns revealing into art as powerful as a planetary vibration. The Plain Dealer Both heartbreaking and astonishingly beautiful. New York Post [Deraniyagalas family] spring from these pages with an exuberance and dimensionality that lifts Wave from memoir into some virtual realm of documentation. The Boston Globe [A] quiet memoir of torturous loss. . . . Deraniyagala tours memories of her young familys history with artistry. The New Yorker A haunting chronicle of love and horrifying loss. . . . Memory, sorrow, and undying love. Abraham Verghese Radiant. . . . The extremity of Deraniyagalas story seizes the attention, but its the beauty of how she expresses it that makes it indelible. . . . [She is] a writer of such extraordinary gifts. . . . Waveis a small, slender book, but it is enormous on the inside.Salon Chillingly real. . . . Wave captures the elusive, shape-shifting nature of grief. Newsday Beautiful and ravaging . . . faultless prose. Daily Herald Immeasurably potent. . . . Relentless in its explication of grief, this massively courageous, tenaciously unsentimental chronicle of unthinkable loss and incremental recovery explodesand then expandsour notion of what love really means. Moremagazine