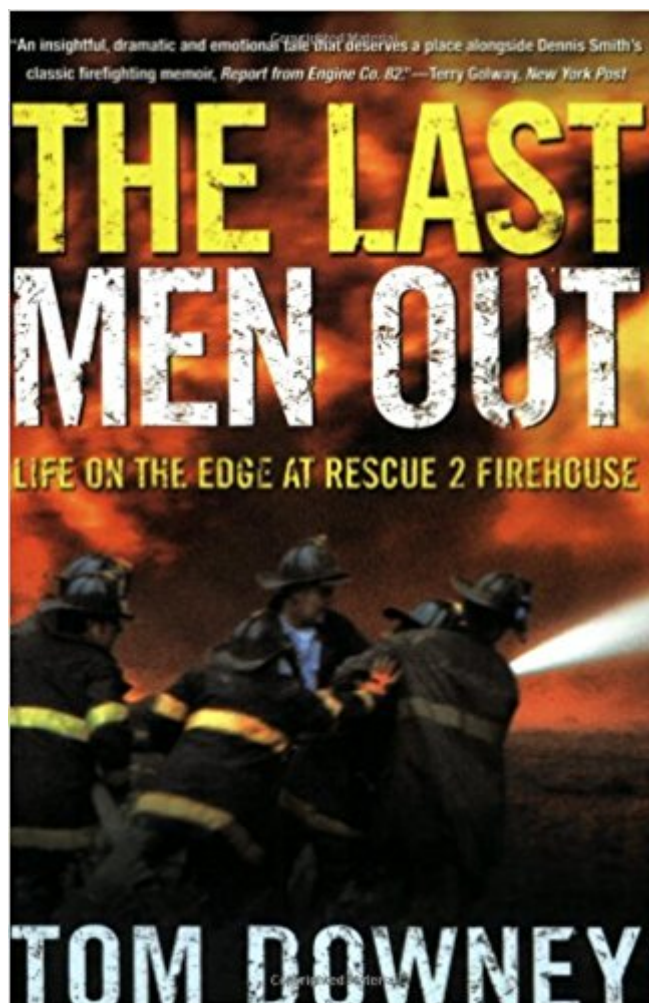


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# The Last Men Out: Life On The Edge At Rescue 2 Firehouse



## Synopsis

"An insightful, dramatic and emotional tale that deserves a place alongside Dennis Smith's classic firefighting memoir, *Report from Engine Co. 82.*" -Terry Golway, *New York Post* Brooklyn's Rescue 2 has long been known as one of the country's top firehouses, a model for departments nationwide. Recognized for their expertise and commitment, Rescue 2's men handle only big blazes where civilians and their fellow firemen are in danger. Beginning in 1996 with legendary Captain Ray Downey's promotion, the story follows the trials of his replacement, Phil Ruvolo, as he works to win over his headstrong men. A new Rescue 2 is forged through changes in firefighting methods and blazes that quickly become legend. Through the crisis of 9/11 and the subsequent rebuilding, Ruvolo triumphantly fills the late Downey's boots, heading Rescue 2 toward a future worthy of its past, its heroes, its city. Filled with firefighting detail, raucous humor, and gritty real-life scenes, *The Last Men Out* is a new classic for an era in firefighting that is more risky, complicated, and dramatic than any before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Deputy Chief Ray Downey, the most highly decorated firefighter in the history of the FDNY, died during the World Trade Center rescue operations, but months earlier, he had arranged for his nephew, filmmaker Tom Downey, to make a documentary on the emergency experts of Brooklyn's Rescue Company No. 2, the "most active firefighting unit in the city." After the completed film, *Still Riding: Rescue Company New York City*, aired on September 11, 2002, Tom Downey continued his

research, writing about firefighters for the New York Times. For this book, he follows the efforts of the new captain, Phil Ruvolo, to take command and establish a rapport with his men. Interweaving the history and lore of landmark fires with daily chores and rituals, Downey recreates the firehouse's kitchen table banter and sardonic humor. He probes the physical toll and psychological problems firefighters experience, along with the job's dangers: "Crawling in for a job, a fireman would feel the linoleum, think it was safe to enter, and then fall through." Limning individual personalities and capturing the company's camaraderie with amusing anecdotes, Downey's descriptions burn into the pages with searing intensity. Writing with verve and energy in a gritty style, he explores all extremes of the firemen's world, from triumphant moments of heroism to bitter tragedies. The concluding chapters document 9/11 and its aftermath from the firemen's point of view: the "horrible losses" resulting in a massive shortage of qualified firefighters to fill the ranks of the rescue and squad companies. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Downey's father and uncles were firemen, and the late chief Ray Downey, an uncle, was in command of Brooklyn's Rescue 2 for 14 years. Rescue 2 firefighters are experts in every kind of emergency; if you are trapped under a train, pinned in a car wreck, or buried in a building collapse, these are the people with the tools and the knowledge to save your life. The author lived in the firehouse for months, spending night shifts cruising the borough with them. He had just started to work on the book when the 9/11 disaster struck, but most of it deals with the years before that tragic event. He profiles several of the firefighters and their families; he lets us in on their taste for practical jokes and the merciless hazing that recruits face, as well as the make-work chores they carry out between fires. And he explains the procedures in fighting a fire and defines firehouse jargon, all of which adds to an intimate look at the daily lives of veteran firefighters. George Cohen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Perhaps what moves me so much about this book is that I've spent my entire adult life working in public service. I have felt the heat of the fire and known the joy of brotherhood that comes with facing danger and overcoming. This book is the embodiment of that feeling set down on paper. The story of the men of rescue 2 pulls you in and makes you feel like you know them. They are men like other men you know who face danger knowing the risks but do it anyway. The Last Men Out shows what it is like with so many paid professional fire fighters, the job is not what they do, it is who they

are. It will not be a feel good happy ending read, but a book that will make you feel an honor for these men who went into those buildings when everyone else was running out and would do it again if things had turned out different. The self sacrifice of the brave(real)people in this book is humbling.

I gave this book as a gift to my retired firefighter husband. Preferring political and technical/scientific/discovery magazines, he rarely reads books; however, he couldn't put this book down. Instead of relaxing before the boob tube on his days off, he read! He found it gripping, taking him back to his days at the FDNY, and profound in its personal insights into the lives of the men of Rescue 2. You can feel how the men mobilize, fight and react to horrific fires. The book is a fitting tribute to the men of Rescue 2, their leaders and fallen brothers, and to their struggles post 9/11. It's a must read for civilians and firemen alike.

As close to actually being on the runs with Rescue 2 without being there. Anyone who reads this book has to respect the men involved. The impact of 09/11 is clearly shown in this book. I don't know how surviving FDNY members could deal with the loss of their brothers and still go on with this work. Great incites on the way of life for the firefighters and why they are such a tight knit unit.

Honest book about real life of a firefighter. Nice to see a book that acknowledges 9-11 w/o seeming to take advantage of it just to boost sales. Shows what it takes to exist in that life before and after.

This is an interesting read and provides a lot of insight into the crazy life of firefighters.

Great book!

I bought this for my husband for Christmas due to your suggestion. He is a volunteer FF. He has read quite a few FF books but your bio sold me. He read the book in a month. He couldn't put it down! He felt as if he was in the action and he knows what that really feels like. He couldn't say enough about how much he enjoyed this book. Yes for any FF or wanna be.

I took this book out at our local library and could not put it down. I am from NY and my son is a fireman in our town. I ordered this copy for him, and his chief at the firestation wanted to read it after my son was through with it. I was very pleased with the condition the book was in. It was a hard cover with the dust jacket and since it was a former library book it came with library see-through

dust jacket on also. All was as represented about the book on and I would certainly order another book through and the seller.

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