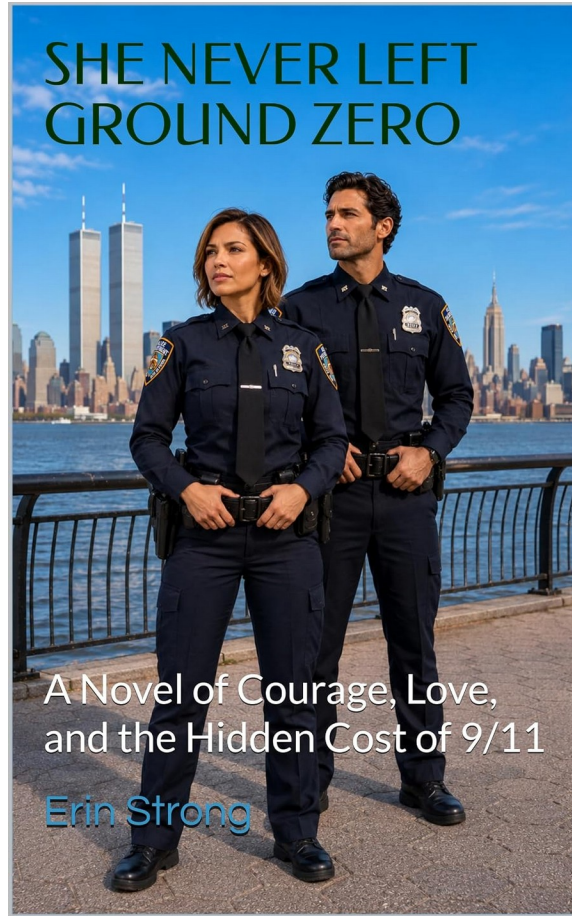




MEDIA KIT

She Never Left Ground Zero

A Novel of Courage, Love, and the Hidden Cost of 9/11

ERIN STRONG

**Complete digital edition free worldwide through September 30, 2026
No registration, email address, purchase, or review required.**

sheneverleftgroundzero.com | erin@groundzerolegacy.com

Media Kit at a Glance

MEDIA CONTACT

Erin Strong

erin@groundzerolegacy.com

Written questions and interviews by email only. No telephone, video, radio, television, podcast, Zoom, or in-person appearances.

Book facts

TITLE	She Never Left Ground Zero
SUBTITLE	A Novel of Courage, Love, and the Hidden Cost of 9/11
AUTHOR	Erin Strong
CATEGORY	Historical fiction; family drama; enduring love story
PUBLICATION	2026
AVAILABILITY	Free complete digital edition through September 30, 2026; Amazon editions also available
WEBSITE	sheneverleftgroundzero.com
SETTING	New York City, Ohio, and the decades following September 11, 2001
CENTRAL CHARACTER	Sofia Vega, an NYPD officer whose service at Ground Zero changes her family forever

Primary links

- Book website: <https://sheneverleftgroundzero.com>
- Free digital edition: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YRqJxHUSqIvrvmfCRf_8lPT-YwLumZQC/view?usp=sharing
- Amazon book page: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0HFNZN723>
- Goodreads book page: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/257108214?ref=s_s

Story Summary and Coverage Angles

One-sentence description

A historical novel inspired by a real NYPD officer, *She Never Left Ground Zero* follows Sofia Vega from the courage of September 11 through the hidden health, emotional, and family consequences carried across the following decades.

Short synopsis

NYPD officer Sofia Vega runs toward danger on September 11, 2001, and survives the day, but Ground Zero follows her home. As she and fellow officer David Rossi build a life around their daughter, Marie, the toxic exposure, memories, and responsibilities of that day continue shaping their family. Inspired by a real NYPD officer whom Erin Strong knew personally, the novel combines historical fiction, family drama, and an enduring love story to explore the human cost of service long after public attention has moved on.

Potential coverage angles

The anniversary angle: A complete 9/11 historical novel offered free worldwide for the 25th anniversary.

The overlooked aftermath: The story centers on the years and decades after the attacks, including illness, caregiving, memory, and family consequences.

The personal connection: The author personally knew the real NYPD officer who helped inspire the novel while protecting the officer and family's privacy.

The love-story angle: Sofia and David's enduring relationship gives the historical narrative an intimate emotional center.

The family angle: The novel portrays how the cost of public service is shared by spouses, children, parents, and caregivers.

The reading-community angle: The free edition can support book-club, classroom, library, remembrance, and community discussions without requiring registration or a review.

Key themes

Courage • Service • Enduring love • Family • Memory • First responders • Caregiving • Long-term illness • Grief • Resilience • Responsibility • Remembrance

About the Novel and Author

Extended synopsis

Sofia Vega learns courage long before she becomes a New York City police officer. Her life moves between Spanish Harlem and an Ohio lake where her grandfather teaches her to trust her inner compass. Years later, that compass leads her into police work and into a life with fellow officer David Rossi.

Together, Sofia and David build a family around their daughter, Marie. Then September 11, 2001, changes the course of their lives. When the World Trade Center is attacked, Sofia and other officers run toward danger. In the hours and days that follow, she works amid smoke, wreckage, grief, and toxic dust while helping families search for missing loved ones.

Sofia eventually comes home, but Ground Zero comes home with her. Across the years that follow, the family confronts consequences that are physical, emotional, and deeply personal. The novel portrays not only the public courage of a first responder, but also the private courage required of spouses, children, caregivers, and families living with history long after the cameras leave.

She Never Left Ground Zero is historical fiction inspired in part by a real NYPD officer whom Erin Strong knew personally and by experiences shared by many responders and families. It is not a biography. Characters, conversations, relationships, and personal storylines are fictionalized.

About Erin Strong

Erin Strong writes historical fiction inspired by ordinary people who demonstrate extraordinary courage. Her novels explore the lasting effects of history on individuals, families, and communities. *She Never Left Ground Zero* is a work of fiction inspired in part by a real NYPD officer whom Strong knew personally and by the many responders and families whose lives were forever changed by September 11.

Author statement

“September 11 did not end when the smoke cleared. For many responders and their families, its consequences continued for years. This novel remembers not only those who died, but also those who carried the day with them for the rest of their lives.”

Privacy note

Erin Strong has chosen to keep the identity of the NYPD officer and the details of their personal relationship private out of respect for the officer's family. Erin Strong responds to media questions in writing by email only.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - AUGUST 20, 2026

ERIN STRONG OFFERS COMPLETE 9/11 NOVEL FREE WORLDWIDE FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

***She Never Left Ground Zero* explores courage, enduring love, and the hidden cost carried by responders and their families**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., August 20, 2026 - To commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, author Erin Strong is making the complete digital edition of *She Never Left Ground Zero* available free to readers worldwide through September 30, 2026.

The book may be downloaded without registration, an email address, a purchase, or any obligation to post a review. Strong created the free-access period to help preserve remembrance of the people whose courage and sacrifice continued long after September 11, 2001.

The novel follows Sofia Vega, a New York City police officer who runs toward danger when the World Trade Center is attacked. Sofia survives the day, but the toxic dust, memories, and responsibilities of Ground Zero follow her home. Her relationship with fellow officer David Rossi and their family becomes the emotional center of a story that spans the immediate disaster and its consequences across the following decades.

Inspired in part by a real NYPD officer whom Strong knew personally and by the many responders and families whose lives were forever changed, the work is historical fiction rather than a biography. Its characters and personal storylines are fictionalized while reflecting the shared courage, illness, grief, resilience, and family burdens associated with the long aftermath of 9/11.

The book combines a story of service and sacrifice with an enduring love story, portraying the ordinary family life that surrounds historic events and the quiet ways trauma and illness reshape a household. It is intended for readers of historical fiction, family drama, romantic fiction, and stories about first responders and September 11.

“The 25th anniversary should be about remembrance rather than sales. Making the book freely available is my way of helping preserve these stories.” - Erin Strong

Readers can access the free digital edition and learn more at sheneverleftgroundzero.com. The offer ends September 30, 2026.

Media contact: Erin Strong, erin@groundzerolegacy.com. Written questions and interviews by email only.

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Written Interview with Erin Strong

These responses are approved written statements from Erin Strong. Journalists may quote them in whole or in part with attribution. When shortening a response, please preserve its intended meaning. Additional written questions may be sent to erin@groundzerolegacy.com. Email correspondence only.

1. Why did you write *She Never Left Ground Zero*?

I wanted to tell a story about what happened after the day the world remembers. September 11 was a single date on the calendar, but for many responders and their families, its consequences continued for years. The novel grew from a desire to honor that continuing courage and to show the private lives, relationships, illnesses, and sacrifices that existed beyond the public images of Ground Zero.

2. What does the title mean?

The title reflects the idea that a person can physically leave a place while still carrying it emotionally and physically. Sofia returns home from Ground Zero, but the memories, responsibilities, toxic exposure, and people she encountered remain part of her life. In that sense, part of her never leaves.

3. Is the novel inspired by a true story?

Yes. The novel was inspired in part by a real NYPD officer whom I knew personally and by the experiences of many responders and families affected by September 11. Knowing her gave the story a deeply personal foundation, but this is not her biography. Sofia does not represent her - or any single person - in every detail. The characters, conversations, relationships, and personal storylines are fictionalized to reflect experiences shared by many people whose lives were changed that day.

4. How did you know the NYPD officer who helped inspire the novel?

I have chosen to keep her identity and the details of our personal relationship private out of respect for her family. What I can say is that knowing her made me understand that the consequences of September 11 extended far beyond what the public saw.

5. Which parts of the book are fictionalized?

The principal characters, private conversations, relationships, and personal storylines are fictionalized. Historical events provide the setting, but the novel does not claim that every scene happened exactly as written. I wanted to preserve the emotional truth of the experience while being clear that this is a work of historical fiction.

Written Interview with Erin Strong - continued

6. Why are you offering the complete digital edition free?

The 25th anniversary should be about remembrance rather than sales. I want readers to understand that September 11 was not merely one terrible day. Its consequences continued for responders and their families for years and, in many cases, for the rest of their lives. Making the book freely available is my way of helping preserve those stories.

7. Why is the free offer continuing through September 30, 2026?

I wanted readers to have time beyond the anniversary itself to discover and read the novel. Remembrance should not be confined to a single news cycle or a single day. Keeping the digital edition free through the end of September gives individuals, families, book groups, and community organizations an opportunity to read and discuss it at their own pace.

8. What do you hope readers understand about the aftermath of 9/11?

I hope readers recognize that the aftermath continued quietly inside homes, hospitals, marriages, and families. Many people carried health problems, grief, trauma, and responsibilities that were not always visible to the public. Heroism is not limited to the moment of rescue. Sometimes it is found in the years of endurance that follow.

9. Why did you make an enduring love story central to the novel?

History happens inside ordinary human relationships. Sofia and David love each other, raise a family, disagree, worry, and try to protect one another while living with events larger than themselves. Their relationship gives the historical story a human center. The novel is not only about what tragedy takes from people; it is also about what love helps them carry.

10. How does Sofia Vega differ from a conventional fictional hero?

Sofia is courageous, but she is not invulnerable. She runs toward danger because it is her duty, then returns to the ordinary demands of family life while carrying consequences she did not choose. Her strength is not the absence of fear or suffering. It is her determination to keep serving, loving, and living despite them.

11. Why is the family perspective important?

The cost of service is rarely borne by one person alone. Spouses, children, parents, siblings, and friends live with the uncertainty and the aftermath. By following Sofia, David, and their family across many years, the novel shows how a historic event can continue shaping birthdays, meals, medical decisions, memories, and relationships long after public attention has moved elsewhere.

Written Interview with Erin Strong - continued

12. How did you approach the historical setting?

I treated the known historical events as a responsibility rather than simply a dramatic backdrop. The story draws on the public record and accounts of the work performed by police officers, first responders, volunteers, medical personnel, and family-assistance workers. At the same time, I kept the personal narrative clearly within the realm of fiction.

13. Is the book primarily about illness and loss?

No. Illness and loss are important parts of the story, but so are childhood, family, humor, work, marriage, parenthood, memory, and love. I wanted readers to know Sofia as a complete person, not only as someone defined by one day or by what happened afterward.

14. Who do you believe will connect with this book?

The novel is written for readers of historical fiction, family drama, romantic fiction, and stories about public service. I also hope it will resonate with first responders, military families, healthcare workers, caregivers, and anyone who understands how a major event can continue shaping a family for generations.

15. Are readers expected to post a review in exchange for the free book?

No. There is no registration, email requirement, purchase, or obligation to review the book. Readers who genuinely wish to share an honest opinion are welcome to do so, but the free edition is offered without conditions.

16. What would you most like readers to remember after finishing the novel?

I hope they remember that the people who responded on September 11 had families, ordinary routines, private fears, and futures they expected to live. Their service did not end when the cameras left, and neither did the consequences. Remembering them means remembering the whole story, including the years that came afterward.

17. What does courage mean in this story?

Courage is running toward danger, but it is also returning home and continuing to live. It is accepting help, caring for a sick family member, telling the truth about pain, and remaining present when there is no simple solution. The novel honors both public acts of bravery and the quiet courage practiced in private.

Written Interview with Erin Strong - continued

18. Are you available for interviews or additional questions?

I am glad to answer thoughtful questions in writing by email. Written correspondence allows me to respond carefully and accurately. I am not available for telephone, video, radio, television, podcast, Zoom, or in-person interviews.

19. Why did you choose fiction instead of writing a biography or nonfiction account?

Fiction allowed me to create a complete family story while drawing upon experiences shared by many responders and their loved ones. A biography would necessarily focus on one individual. Through Sofia, David, Marie, and their extended family, I could explore how September 11 affected different people across many stages of life. Fiction also allowed me to protect private identities while remaining faithful to the larger emotional and historical truth.

20. What would you like book clubs and community groups to discuss after reading the novel?

I hope they discuss how public tragedy enters private life, what society owes the people who respond in moments of crisis, and how families carry sacrifices that outsiders may never see. I would also like readers to talk about the different forms courage can take - from running toward immediate danger to caring for someone through years of illness. Most of all, I hope the book encourages conversations about remembrance, love, service, and responsibility.

Links, Assets, and Contact

Official links

Official book website

<https://sheneverleftgroundzero.com>

Free complete digital edition

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YRqJxHUSqIvrvmfCRf_8lPT-YwLumZQC/view?usp=sharing

Amazon book page

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0HFNZN723>

Goodreads book page

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/257108214?ref=s_s

What journalists may use

- The press release may be reproduced or excerpted with attribution.
- The written interview answers may be quoted in whole or in part with attribution to Erin Strong.
- The book cover may be used in editorial coverage of the novel.
- The official website may be linked in articles, listings, newsletters, and community resource pages.

Media contact policy

Erin Strong

erin@groundzerolegacy.com

Written questions and interviews by email only. No telephone number is provided. Erin is not available for telephone, video, radio, television, podcast, Zoom, or in-person appearances.

Suggested attribution

“Erin Strong, author of She Never Left Ground Zero”

Suggested book link

<https://sheneverleftgroundzero.com>

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