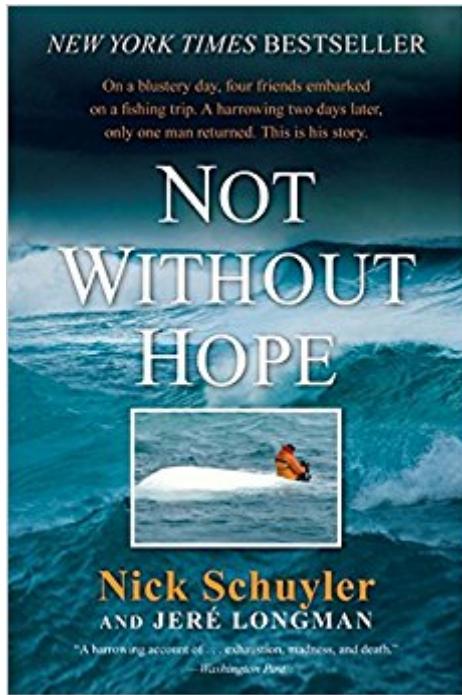


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# Not Without Hope



## **Synopsis**

Not Without Hope is the true story of the headline-making tragedy that took the lives of three football players: NFL stars Marquis Cooper and Corey Smith, and Will Bleakley from the University of South Florida. Told by the sole survivor of the ill-fated fishing trip, Nick Schuyler, with New York Times bestselling author and sports journalist Jere Longford, Not Without Hope is an inspiring and unforgettable story of courage and strength, friendship and loss, and, most importantly, hope, in the vein of Touching the Void, Into Thin Air, Between a Rock and a Hard Place, and Piers Paul Readâ™s classic survival tale, Alive.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (119 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

On February 28, 2009 four friends... excited as little kids... headed out on a fishing trip in Clearwater, Florida. The fact that all four young men were exceptionally physically fit makes the tragedy at sea that occurred hours later even more shocking to their loved ones... and the world at large. The four men were Nick Schuyler a physical trainer... Will Bleakley a former college football player... Corey Smith a professional football player... and Marquis Cooper a professional football player. The "excuse" for the fishing trip (as if an excuse was needed)... was that Marquis was getting ready to head out to the Oakland Raiders training camp. Marquis owned a twenty-one-foot, three-thousand-plus-pound boat and he wanted to get one more day of fishing in before succumbing to the brutality of an NFL training camp. All the guys were almost giddy with anticipation. Will and Nick were best friends and Corey and Marquis were new friends and training associates. Sandwiches were made... beer was packed... and Marquis had an unbelievable

collection of fishing necessities. The morning of the fishing trip Nick's Dad Stu who knew of the fella's fishing trip woke up early "TURNED ON THE TELEVISION AND SAW THAT A FORCEFUL UPPER AIR DISTURBANCE WAS APPROACHING THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES FROM THE NORTHWEST." Stu called his son and his call went directly to voice mail: "NICK, IF YOU GET THIS MESSAGE, HEAD BACK EARLY. A BIG STORM'S COMING IN." What would follow is the death of three of the four men. This story is told in an unrelenting... heart pounding... literally spell binding manner... that will continue to assault your senses... as assuredly as the next wave would unmercifully pound Nick, Will, Corey... and Marquis.

The pettiness and the greatness of manBuy the book and read it; it is hard to put down. I'll comment about the writing of the book and then about the story. The survival story is gripping, as I said. Yet, since every book about someone stranded at sea goes into the survivor's reflections about his own life, beware that in this case the survivor is a 24 YO bodybuilder. His life might not interest the reader as much so skim through those sections and you'll loose nothing. AH, beware also that the book is plagued with "Me's" and "I's" so if you are intolerant to self-centeredness go get your anti-acid before you start to read. Before I turn to my opinion about the story, I'll tell you that I agree with others that have commented that the narrative seems a little strange. One example is enough to show this: they are dying of thirst and suddenly Will retrieves a Gatorade from the capsized boat. First the author says "I didn't drink it right away" as if he were the only one in the boat and as if he had recovered it and not somebody else who should drink first. But not only that. They decide to drink only half and then the story keeps going without ever saying what happened to the other half of this vital supply. Isn't that weird? No, I will give a second example: they have been stranded suffering from hypothermia and hanging from the boat with their fingernails. Waves come and go and suddenly the author says "by the way, I had previously managed to get on the boat". What??? Is that not like something you tell every detail about? Well, enough about the narrative, let me go briefly into the story. I have to say I was astonished. The story shows the pettiness and the greatness of human beings in the course of 48 hours.

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