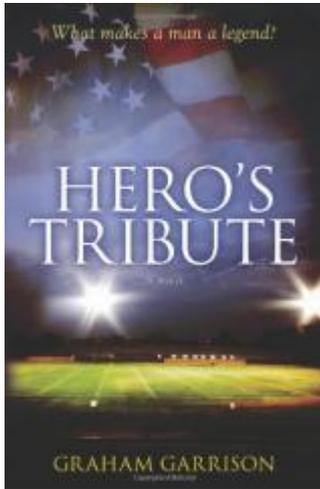


## Hero's Tribute

by Graham Garrison

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### About the Book

Michael Gavin was a local hero, admired for his skill as a quarterback, his service in the military, and his work in the community. Stricken with cancer and on his death bed, Michael takes a leap of faith and entrusts his legacy to Wes Watkins, a reporter he's never met, by asking him to deliver his eulogy.

Wes accepts this unconventional offer, hoping to at least get a good story out of the situation. But Wes soon discovers that his typical reporting tactics aren't going to work this time around. As he uncovers some secrets in Michael's past, Wes begins to see Michael as he really was rather than the larger-than-life legend the town has created. The closer he gets to the truth, however, the town begins to close ranks. Finding the whole truth could cost Wes everything. Who was this man that Talking Creek revered?

### Discussion Guide

1. Why did Michael Gavin ask a complete stranger to give his eulogy? Was he thinking about himself and his family or did he have another purpose?
2. Michael has a past that he's not proud of. How did that affect the rest of his life?
3. What is your first impression of Wes Watkins? Did your impression of him change at all as the plot unfolded?
4. Were you surprised by how Wes went about crafting his story? What about people's reactions to his questions? Was he right in pursuing the truth and professional in his methods for doing so? Why or why not?
5. Forgiveness is a theme running through the story. How was it played out in different characters? Why was this highlighted over other aspects of Gavin's life?
6. What character do you identify with the most? Why?
7. Was Michael Gavin a hero? For his accomplishments or for something else? What truly defines a hero?
8. Discuss the novel's ending. What is the final message of this book? Is it positive or negative?

## Author Bio

Graham Garrison is a writer and editor who lives in suburban Atlanta. He has covered high school and college football games as a newspaper reporter, completed an internship with the U.S. Army at its National Training Center in the Mojave Desert and tested WaveRunners and Runabouts as the managing editor of a national boating magazine. He's written about battlefields for *America's Civil War*, interviewed medical innovators for *Georgia Physician* and even penned an editorial for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. When he's not writing, he's chasing his two-year old son Nicholas and their Beagle, Baxter around the backyard with his wife, Katie. Visit his website at [www.grahamgarrisonwords.com](http://www.grahamgarrisonwords.com).

## Critical Praise

"A powerful and moving book about what truly defines a hero. This is a good read."

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by Graham Garrison

**Publication Date:** September 21, 2009  
**Genres:** Christian, Fiction  
**Paperback:** 240 pages  
**Publisher:** Kregel Publications  
**ISBN-10:** 0825426855  
**ISBN-13:** 9780825426858