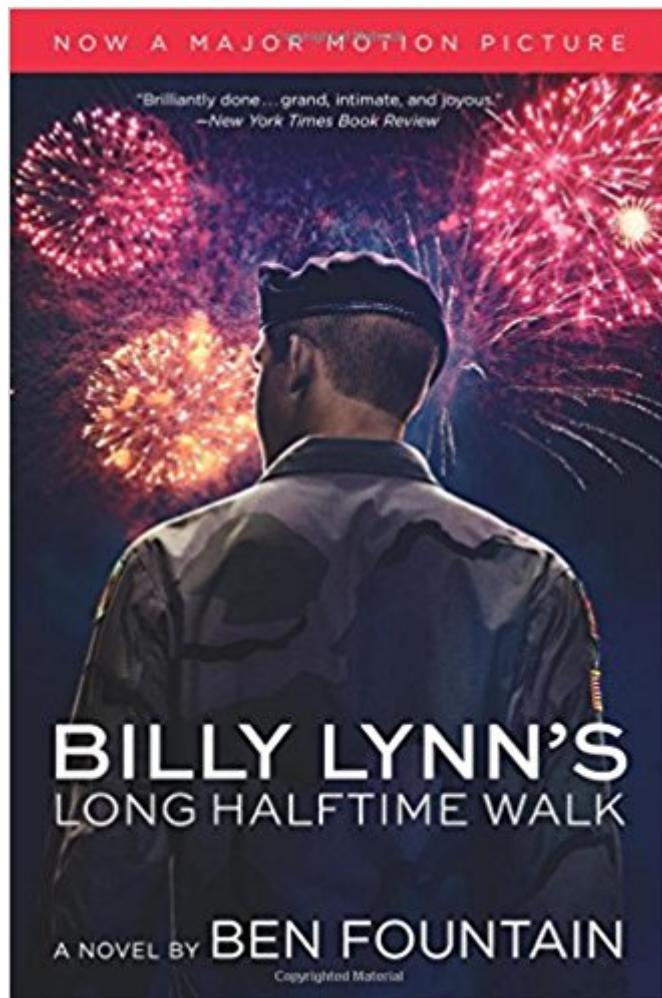


The book was found

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel



Synopsis

New York Times BestsellerNow a Major Motion Pictureâ œBrilliantly done . . . grand, intimate, and joyous.â •â "New York Times Book Reviewâ œMothers, father, sons, and daughters: read this giant-hearted novel.â •â "MARIA SEMPLE, author of *Whereâ ™d You Go, Bernadette*Three minutes and forty-three seconds of intensive warfare with Iraqi insurgentsâ "caught on tape by an embedded Fox News crewâ "has transformed the eight surviving men of Bravo Squad into Americaâ ™s most sought-after heroes. Now theyâ ™re on a media-intensive nationwide tour to reinvigorate public support for the war. On this rainy Thanksgiving Day, the Bravos are guests of a Dallas football team, slated to be part of the halftime show. Among the Bravos is nineteen-year-old Specialist Billy Lynn. Surrounded by patriots sporting flag pins on their lapels and support our troops bumper stickers, he is thrust into the company of the teamâ ™s owner and his coterie of wealthy colleagues; a born-again cheerleader; a veteran Hollywood producer; and supersized players eager for a vicarious taste of war. Over the course of this day, Billy will drink and brawl, yearn for home and mourn those missing, face a heart-wrenching decision and discover pure love and a bitter wisdom far beyond his years. Poignant, riotously funny, and exquisitely heartbreaking, Billy Lynnâ ™s *Long Halftime Walk* is a searing and powerful novel that has cemented Ben Fountainâ ™s reputation as one of the finest writers of his generation.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Ecco; Reprint edition (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062644025

ISBN-13: 978-0062644022

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ ¤ See all reviewsÂ (840 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,263 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Satire #276 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Satire #401 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > War

Customer Reviews

When I first heard about this book (and Karl Marlantes' blurb), I assumed it was written by a veteran - it isn't, and that's really amazing, because this is a pitch-perfect look into a soldier's experiences. I

say that as a veteran (of Desert Storm) and an embedded journalist in Iraq in 2007-09, so I have some first-hand knowledge with what he describes. To me, the voices and actions of the characters are dead-on accurate. It's got some flaws, which I'll get to first so I can finish strong. In my mind, the flaws are because he's trying so hard at writing something big and memorable, and it gets away from him at times. The conclusion veers into melodrama. Up until the last 40 pages or so, I could pretty much buy the events as possible real-life occurrences. But the end features a couple moments where I couldn't quite suspend disbelief. While the civilians he describes behave realistically, there's times when it feels very much like the author's "meta rant" against the American mindset - he sets up some characters as one-dimensional straw men so he can show his disdain. I agree with what he's presenting, but it doesn't always feel like a story - more like he's trying to inject a point into the fictional narrative. Which is fine, but not if it's obvious like it sometime is. Most of the time, the story is told in present-day perspective with some flashbacks. Very occasionally, he switches into describing the future, and that's awkward. For me, I would have liked no 'future look' at all. So, okay, those things threw me off. Everything else is very strong. Marlantes called it a "Catch 22" of the Iraq War - but that's not accurate, because to me it's not really a satire.

Plenty have summed up the plot of this book; if you've arrived at the page and are reading reviews, it's safe to say you know at least the rough outlines of the story. So I'll forego that....A colleague of mine likes telling this story: his wife finally asks him what he's reading after he repeatedly laughs out loud. He replies to her, "A war novel." There's a bitterness that underlies it all, to be sure (see my back-and-forth with one of the one-star curmudgeons for more on that), but that bitterness is frequently offset by Fountain's hip, hilarious, dead on observations and wonderfully fresh cache of similes. Here are just a (very) few examples: "She performed with a multitasky air of distractedness, like she was watering plants while talking on the phone..." "She was still capable of sad, skewed smiles from time to time, forcing the cheer like Christmas lights in the poor part of town..." "His complexion is the ruddled, well-scrubbed pink of an old ketchup stain..." "Billy makes a few of the cheerleaders for strippers--they have the tough slizzard look of the club pro--but most of them could be college girls with their fresh good looks, their pert noses and smooth necks, their scrubbed, unsullied air of wholesome voluptuousness..." "They're just so pretty and genuinely nice, and toned, good God, their bodies firm as steel belted radials...." "Their wonderful breasts keep noodging up against his arms, setting off sensory bells and whistles like a run of bonus points in a video game..." "Back in the locker room the players have almost finished suiting up. The air is a pungent casserole of plastics, b.o.

Every war in the twentieth century has given us quality literature, some great, some not. "All Quiet on the Western Front, For Whom the Bell Tolls, Slaughterhouse Five, Catch 22, The Things They Carried" were great. "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" is not. But like all literature, "Billy Lynn" holds up a mirror to America and the image is chilling. Billy Lynn and his fellow grunts in Bravo Team return to the states for a hero's welcome, only to be confronted by an America completely unfazed, totally uninvolves in the war. Like "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Billy Lynn" shows the puzzlement of troops who return from deadly battle only to see a complete disconnection in civilian society. America appreciates Bravo's efforts, politely expresses their support for the troops, but don't interrupt America's quest for materialism and pursuit of our right to happiness. Ben Fountain draws an excellent portrait of America's ambivalence towards the Iraqi War, something that we've never seen before. In all other wars (except for the brief Desert Storm), our troops were primarily drafted, pulled reluctantly into harm's way. Families everywhere had someone or knew someone in the service. Casualties and deaths reverberated through communities reminding everyone that it could have been their son or nephew. It was this reverberation, the cry of mothers, which ended the Viet Nam War. Young men had no control over their lives. Authors explored the ancient Greek concept of determinism: how much of our lives are determined by things we cannot control, such as chance and the environment in which we live.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel
Billy Graham A Tribute: Classic Sermons of Billy Graham
Halftime: Changing Your Game Plan from Success to Significance
Loretta Lynn: Coal Miner's Daughter
Simply Raw: Vegetable Portraits by Lynn Karlin 2015 Wall Calendar
You and Your Anxious Child: Free Your Child from Fears and Worries and Create a Joyful Family Life (Lynn Sonberg Book)
Cora Lynn: A Butterfly's Secret Tale
Walk the Renaissance Walk---A Kid's Guide to Florence, Italy
The Walk West: A Walk Across America 2
A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story
Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom
Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela
The Long Walk Long Walk to Freedom, Vol. 1: 1918-1962
Long Walk To Freedom (Abacus 40th Anniversary)
The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life That Follows The Long Walk: The True Story Of A Trek To Freedom
Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith
Long Walk to Water And God Said, Billy!: A Novel

[Dmca](#)