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# Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk

By Ben Fountain



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**Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk** By Ben Fountain

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction and a finalist for the National Book Award!

From the PEN/Hemingway Award-winning author of the critically acclaimed short story collection, *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara*, comes *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* ("The Catch-22 of the Iraq War" —Karl Marlantes).

A razor-sharp satire set in Texas during America's war in Iraq, it explores the gaping national disconnect between the war at home and the war abroad.

Ben Fountain's remarkable debut novel follows the surviving members of the heroic Bravo Squad through one exhausting stop in their media-intensive "Victory Tour" at Texas Stadium, football mecca of the Dallas Cowboys, their fans, promoters, and cheerleaders.



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## Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk By Ben Fountain Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best Books of the Month, May 2012:** Billy Lynn and his Bravo squad mates have become heroes thanks to an embedded Fox News crew's footage of their firefight against Iraqi insurgents. During one day of their bizarre Victory Tour, set mostly at a Thanksgiving Day football game at Texas Stadium, they're wooed by Hollywood producers, smitten by Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders, and share a stage at halftime with Beyonce. Guzzling Jack and Cokes and scuffling with fans, the Bravos are conflicted soldiers. "Okay, so maybe they aren't the greatest generation," writes debut author (!) Ben Fountain, who manages a sly feat: giving us a maddening and believable cast of characters who make us feel what it must be like to go to war. Veering from euphoria to dread to hope, *Billy Lynn* is a propulsive story that feels real and true. With fierce and fearless writing, Fountain is a writer worth every accolade about to come his way. --*Neal Thompson*

### Review

"[An] inspired, blistering war novel... Though it covers only a few hours, the book is a gripping, eloquent provocation. Class, privilege, power, politics, sex, commerce and the life-or-death dynamics of battle all figure in Billy Lynn's surreal game day experience." (New York Times)

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk is not merely good; it's Pulitzer Prize-quality good . . . A bracing, fearless and uproarious satire of how contemporary war is waged and sold to the American public." (San Francisco Chronicle)

"A masterful echo of 'Catch-22,' with war in Iraq at the center. ...a gut-punch of a debut novel... There's hardly a false note, or even a slightly off-pitch one, in Fountain's sympathetic, damning and structurally ambitious novel." (Washington Post)

"Fountain's excellent first novel follows a group of soldiers at a Dallas Cowboys game on Thanksgiving Day... Through the eyes of the titular soldier, Fountain creates a minutely observed portrait of a society with woefully misplaced priorities. [Fountain has] a pitch-perfect ear for American talk..." (The New Yorker)

"Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk is a big one. This is the brush-clearing Bush book we've been waiting for." (Harper's Magazine)

"Brilliantly done . . . grand, intimate, and joyous." (New York Times Book Review)

"For Memorial Day why not turn to a biting, thoughtful, and absolutely spot-on new novel, Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk... This postmodern swirl of inner substance, yellow ribbons, and good(ish) intentions is at the core of Ben Fountain's brilliant Bush-era novel." (The Daily Beast)

"Ben Fountain combines blistering, beautiful language with razor-sharp insight... and has written a funny novel that provides skewering critiques of America's obsession with sports, spectacle, and war." (Huffington Post)

"A brilliantly conceived first novel . . . The irony, sorrow, anger and examples of cognitive dissonance that suffuse this novel make it one of the most moving and remarkable novels I've ever read." (Nancy Pearl, NPR, Morning Edition)

“Seething, brutally funny...[Fountain] leaves readers with a fully realized band of brothers...Fountain’s readers will never look at an NFL Sunday, or at America, in quite the same way.” (Sports Illustrated)

“Biting, thoughtful, and absolutely spot-on. . . . This postmodern swirl of inner substance, yellow ribbons, and good(ish) intentions is at the core of Ben Fountain’s brilliant Bush-era novel.” (The Daily Beast)

“The Iraq war hasn’t yet had its *Catch-22* or *Slaughterhouse-Five*, but *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk* is a contender... A wicked sense of humor, wonderful writing and, beneath the anger and outrage, a generous heart.” (Tampa Bay Times)

“It’s a darkly humorous satire about the war at home, absurd and believable at the same time.” (Esquire)

“Darkly comic...Rarely does such a ruminative novel close with such momentum.” (Los Angeles Times)

“Fountain’s strength as a writer is that he not only can conjure up this all-too-realistic-sounding mob, but also the young believably innocent soul for our times, Specialist Billy Lynn. And from the first page I found myself rooting for him, often from the edge of my seat.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

“[A] masterly . . . tightly structured book [with] a sprawling amount of drama and emotion.” (The Rumpus)

“Passionate, irreverent, utterly relevant *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk* offers an unforgettable portrait of a reluctant hero. Ben Fountain writes like a man inspired and his razor sharp exploration of our contemporary ironies will break your heart.” (Margot Livesey)

“[T]he shell-shocked humor will likely conjure comparisons with *Catch-22* and *Slaughterhouse Five*... War is hell in this novel of inspired absurdity.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

“A truly wondrous first novel.” (Shelf Awareness)

“[T]he *Catch-22* of the Iraq War...Fountain applies the heat of his wicked sense of humor while you face the truth of who we have become. Live one day inside Billy Lynn’s head and you’ll never again see our soldiers or America in the same way.” (Karl Marlantes, bestselling author of *Matterhorn*)

“Ben Fountain stormed to the front lines of American fiction when he published his astonishing...*Brief Encounters with Che Guevara*. His first novel will raise his stature and add to his splendid reputation. *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk* is both hilarious and heartbreaking.” (Pat Conroy)

“Fountain is the Pen/Hemingway Award winner of the bristly and satisfying *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara*, so I expect lots from this book.” (Barbara's Picks, Library Journal)

“Ben Fountain’s *Halftime* is as close to the Great American Novel as anyone is likely to come these days—an extraordinary work that captures and releases the unquiet spirit of our age, and will probably be remembered as one of the important books of this decade.” (Madison Smartt Bell)

“While Fountain undoubtedly knows his Graham Greene and Paul Theroux, his excursions into foreign infernos have an innocence all their own. In between his nihilistic descriptions, a boyishness keeps peeking out, cracking one-liners and admiring the amazing if benighted scenery.” (Cleveland Plain Dealer)

“So much of Fountain’s work...reads with an easy grace.... [S]ometimes genius is anything but rarefied;

sometimes it's just the thing that emerges after twenty years of working at your kitchen table." (Malcolm Gladwell, The New Yorker)

"Here is a novel that is deeply engaged with our contemporary world, timely and timeless at once. Plus, it's such fun to read." (The Millions)

"The chasm between the reality and the glorification of war hasn't been this surreal since Joseph Heller's Catch-22." (Sacramento Bee)

"...wickedly affecting...Billy Lynn has courted some Catch-22 comparisons, and they're well-earned. Fountain is a whiz at lining up plausible inanities and gut-twisting truths for the Bravos to suffer through." (Philadelphia City Paper)

"[A] wonderfully readable book [which] does something similar to Why Are We in Vietnam?, asking hard questions about the cultural short-sightedness that contributed to our involvement in Iraq. As a veteran myself, I can attest that it's spot on." (BookRiot)

"To call Fountain's work enjoyable would be an understatement because it quite simply is one of the best novels written in the past five years." (Texas Books in Review)

"The best book about the Iraq War and Destiny's Child that you'll ever read." (Entertainment Weekly)

From the Back Cover

A finalist for the National Book Award!

Three minutes and forty-three seconds of intense warfare with Iraqi insurgents has transformed the eight surviving men of Bravo Squad into America's most sought-after heroes. Now they're on a media-intensive nationwide tour to reinvigorate support for the war. On this rainy Thanksgiving, the Bravos are guests of the Dallas Cowboys, slated to be part of the halftime show alongside Destiny's Child.

Among the Bravos is 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 Cowboys' owner and his coterie of wealthy colleagues; a born-again Cowboys 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.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Tammy Crider:**

As people who live in the particular modest era should be revise about what going on or details even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

**Joseph Williams:**

Now a day those who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information especially this Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

**Richard Dean:**

This Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk are generally reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The main reason of this Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk can be on the list of great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple reading food but feed a person with information that maybe will shock your prior knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed people. Beside that this Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

**John Cheung:**

As a university student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library or to make summary for some e-book, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's spirit or real their passion. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to right now there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk can make you sense more interested to read.

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