



# Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel

By Ben Fountain

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**Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel** By Ben Fountain

**New York Times Bestseller**  
**Now a Major Motion Picture**

**“Brilliantly done . . . grand, intimate, and joyous.”**

—*New York Times Book Review*

**“Mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters: read this giant-hearted novel.”**

—**MARIA SEMPLE**, author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*

Three minutes and forty-three seconds of intensive warfare with Iraqi insurgents—caught on tape by an embedded Fox News crew—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 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 team’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 Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk* is a searing and powerful novel that has cemented Ben Fountain’s reputation as one of the finest writers of his generation.

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## **Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel By Ben Fountain Bibliography**

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- 336 pages

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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

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Janice Perry:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by simply surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

#### **Lynne Silva:**

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information today can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is inside the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one works to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel as the daily resource information.

#### **Susan Albro:**

Is it an individual who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel can be the response, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

#### **Joshua Atkins:**

As we know that book is essential thing to add our expertise for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we wish. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or perhaps blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This book Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel was filled about science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has different feel when they reading a book. If you know how big benefit of a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book that you wanted.

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