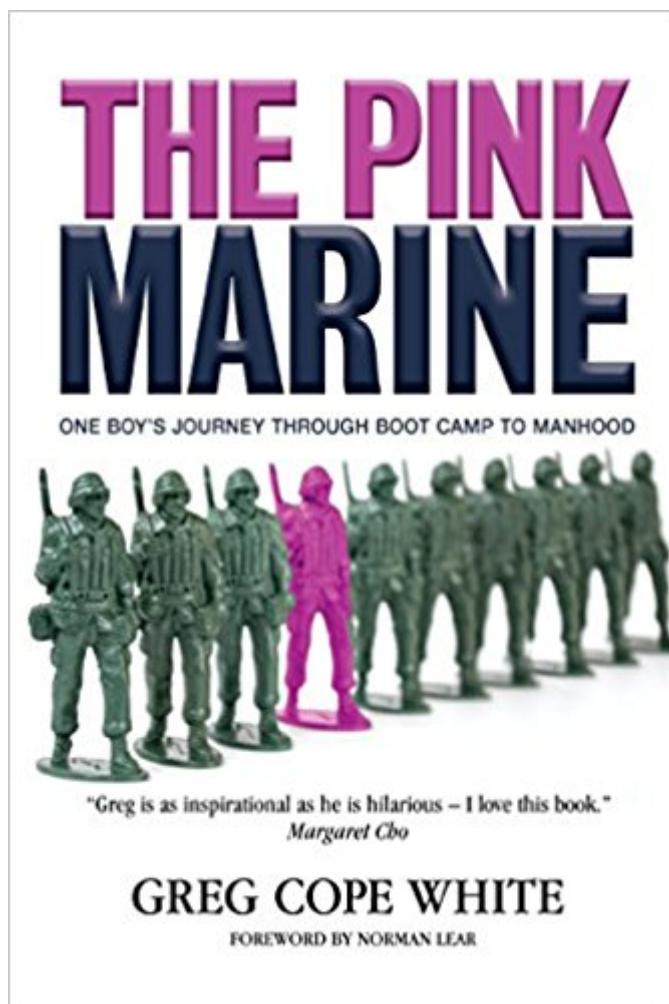


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The Pink Marine: One Boy's Boot Camp Journey To Manhood



Synopsis

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Book Information

Paperback: 266 pages

Publisher: Querelle Press (January 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0996710302

ISBN-13: 978-0996710305

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 52 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,040,800 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Social Issues > LGBT Issues #410 inÃ Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Nonfiction > Civil Rights #2281 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT

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I'm not sure what I expected when I purchased, The Pink Marine. Certainly what I got was much more than I'd hoped for. Greg Cope White took an almost unbelievably mild protagonist, only to build a full set of hopes and dreams and fears into him, then methodically transforms that insecure, introspective boy into a full fledged man over a period of 13 weeks.Throughout his very personal, deeply moving, truly funny tale, Cope White manages to eradicate stereotypes by creating human motivations that transcend race, religion, and yes, even sexuality. He shares his story so openly, with such vibrancy and color, I almost wish I was there. Almost.Thank goodness for the United States Marine Corps, and Greg Cope White. Read, The Pink Maine. You'll be better for it.

Greg Cope White's "The Pink Marine" is an outstanding read for anyone who wants to understand the importance of learning to overcome and succeed. While Greg's experience of having to overcome all of the hurdles of Marine Boot Camp, with the added burden of wondering that at any moment he could have been discharged with an Other than Honorable discharge, or worse because he is Gay, it is more than just more than that. It is a story of triumph in the face of self-doubt and adversity, a story of friendship, loyalty, and bonding that those who have not gone through some form of Boot Camp, or possibly pre-commissioning camps can understand. As Greg tells his story, it is a common story for many men and women, straight and gay alike who have volunteered to serve in the military, not knowing quite what to expect, and then be broken down, and built back up, not just as individuals but as a group. When Greg tells the stories of Boot Camp, the work of the Drill Instructors, and his story of conquering his own doubts and weaknesses I could relate. While I am not Gay, I have served in the military some 35 years, 17 1/2 years in the Army, and about the same in the Navy, with about six of my Navy years serving with the Fleet Marine Force. Greg's book took me back to different parts of my military career, it was amazing to relive some of those moments as Greg told his story. It was an Army Ranger and Special Forces Drill Sergeant who broke me down and built me back up, and in the Navy it was Marines who made me want to excel, even though I was turning 40 I wanted to pass the Marine PFT with a score of Outstanding, which I did on my 40th birthday in March of 2000. Though I am a Navy officer I wear the Fleet Marine Force Qualification pin proudly, it establishes a link with Marines. I recommend Greg's book to anyone, especially those that need some inspiration to begin to believe in themselves, and that they can accomplish things that they thought were unattainable. On another note, Greg's book should also be read by those who oppose Gays serving in the military. I would hope that reading it would help lessen their prejudice and enlighten them that Gays and Lesbians, like anyone else can serve our Nation honorably, with the highest distinction. I found Greg's story tremendously inspiring, even at the age of 56 getting ready for my final tour of duty before I retire. Great book.

The only complaint about this book...it ended! Loved it from start to finish! My takeaway from this book is that it is a wonderful, sensitive, funny, story of a boy searching for his place in the world and his need to feel a sense of belonging. I laughed a lot - and cried a little. In just a few short months of boot camp you see Mr. Cope grow from a boy with no clear direction to a man who accepted the challenges of Marine Corp training and graduates boot camp with strength and confidence. Being gay in the military in the late 70s may have been punishable by death (tongue in cheek!) but Mr.

Cope tells his story with candor and not a bit of whining. I sure hope that he will share his life in the Corp after boot camp in a future book!

This book was such a delight to read. While the story itself is delivered with a self depreciating humor, it's message is a relivant one to anyone who has struggled to "fit". In a time in our history that being gay was not only frowned upon, it could actually get you jailed or worse, Greg pushed the boundaries of not only the military but of himself! My favorite aspect of this book is the lifelong friendship with Dale. In my opinion Dale is a model of good character. As a straight teenager he had the confidence to not only accept Greg for who he was but he embraced him as his best friend. Then Greg trusted that friendship enough to enlist as a Marine! The courage that took for both of them is an inspiration. In 2015 it may not seem like such an amazing feat but in 1979 it was unheard of! I would be one proud mom if my son turned out half as awesome as these men! My father was a Green Beret and I would put Greg and Dale in that category of Man! I look forward to a follow up book!

I really enjoyed this memoir. Not coming from a military family, I had pretty much zero frame of reference going into this book, but Greg made me feel everything: his fear that his sexuality would be discovered, his frustration-turned-triumph as he worked to conquer the physical requirements of boot camp, his connection to the other Marines in his group. Plus the book made me laugh out loud many times. Highly recommend.

This is an insightful story of friendship, commitment, struggle and pride that is told with humor and respect for the military. It's a journey of one boy's growth and development of his self-acceptance that is hard to believe takes place in only a 3 month period! The intimate way that Greg writes makes you feel like you are there with him every step of the way. His humor is engaging and I found myself laughing out loud many times. This is one of those books that you are sad when you're done because you want more! I hope Greg writes a sequel so we can continue to experience his journey.

As a Marine Mom of two sons, reading this books reminded me so much of the letters my sons sent home. It was truly like reliving the experience. I could "see" all the places on Parris Island that I'd visited and my sons were at. Most of Greg's stories had me literally laughing out loud! Funny how things have not changed from 1979 to the 2010's! Great book!

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