



Assault on Lake Casitas

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Brad Lewis's determination to win an Olympic medal had taken over his life by 1984. He would be too old for the 1988 games and the 1980 team had been lost to world politics.

Devastated after losing a critical race by nine-tenths of a second, Lewis went to the Olympic selection camp in hopes of earning his way into a national boat. He was not chosen.

But Lewis was not to be denied, and his story is more than quest for the gold medal. It is about challenging convention, overcoming and working outside the system.

"Lewis is a great athlete, highly individualistic and subversive of the established athletic bureaucracy. Even rarer, he tells a great story. This book does for the Olympian rowing establishment what LIAR'S POKER did for Salomon Brothers." (B-O-T Editorial Review Board)

Assault on Lake Casitas Details

Date : Published March 1st 1990 by Broad Street Books

ISBN : 9781879174009

Author : Brad Alan Lewis , Ed Moran (Editor) , Scott Roop (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 200 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Sports and Games, Sports, Autobiography, Memoir

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From Reader Review Assault on Lake Casitas for online ebook

Jim says

Probably best appreciated by rowers, although other competitive athletes might get something out of it. Lewis is a prickly character who likes to go his own way. Not exactly likeable, but have to admire his work ethic and determination. But if we're going to judge this book by his character, then I think it would be good to hear other perspectives. Like what did they think when he "borrowed" the double and took off with it? Maybe no one cared, but....?

Matthew Pearson says

One of my all time favorite books period. I don't care what mountain you're climbing, what disease you're fighting, or how challenging your job - this book will inspire you to do your very best. Being a good listener is important, but sometimes you have to go with your own vision and be fanatical about being your own advisor. It all comes down to you in the end for many accomplishments - not necessarily for family, or spouse or friends - but if you want to do something great in sports or business you often have to trust yourself. Rarely do we get a view into the mind and mission of someone so obsessively fixated on the prize. One incredible book.

Wystan says

AWESOME. I was told that Lewis was "totally crazy" by my elite-rowing boyfriend, so when I finished this book I was surprised to find Lewis relatively normal (by rowing standards). Perhaps that says more about my mental status than his.

In any case, it's a great story full of good guys and bad guys. Inner struggles and domination. Pushing to the limit and beyond. I appreciated the messages he sent and think that I might have to make it a bi-annual read.

I wish I had a pal that was a masseuse, chiropractor and could adjust MY aura!

Jen says

I enjoyed the underdog, come from behind, do it my own way nature of the story here, but I was completely turned off by the self centered, arrogant, jerk voice of Lewis. The cover, and the reviews here made me think he was going to find himself, grow up and stop being such a jerk to everyone around him, but he never got there before the end of the book. The epilogue makes it sound like he finally found what he needed in the gold medal and then grew up, and let a lot of stuff go, but not in enough time for me to enjoy it. Great descriptions of rowing, training and the intensity and stress of training for an Olympic event outside of the support of a team - that's what saved this for me.

James says

Fabulous sports book, maybe the best I ever read. Right out there with *The Boys In The Boat*, only in the first person and more visceral. The narrative has all the attributes which make a classic story work: The Hero's Journey, Adversity, Antagonist(s), Antagonist(s) Representative(s), Insurmountable Odds Of Success, Love, Spirituality, Awakening, Revelation, Gratification, and more. I read this in two or three sittings, and I don't normally do that. Usually I want to savor, but with this one, I was a glutton and devoured it whole. I felt humbled by my own shortcomings in the end. I want to become a better person.

Elliott Forde says

Being a rower myself, I could truly relate to this book. I understand the pain the Lewis goes through every race, the terrible yet amazing feeling in your gut at the start of a race. Not once was I bored. Lewis' struggle to stardom is truly an amazing story, showing the constant theme of never giving up. No matter what, you should always put forth your full effort. At the end of a race, Lewis said that you should have "used up every ounce of energy in your body." It's true. At the end of a race, all I want to do is collapse and never move. I'm not much of a reader, but this book kept me interested. I couldn't put it down. I read for hours straight and finished it in two days. I'm glad I read it and I recommend it not only to rowers, but everyone else as Lewis does a great job explaining the terms and the feelings that anyone can live in his shoes.

Matthew says

Perhaps if I hadn't read *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* I would have been more taken with this book.

Megan R says

I know virtually nothing about rowing but loved this book.

Greg says

An exciting read. Start in the morning because you'll otherwise be up all night to finish it.

Leslie Walker says

Brad is a weird dude. A super interesting, curious sort of BEASTY competitor and also really messed up dude.

It was interesting to read about the events themselves -- WOW that actually happened? and also about the person who he is -- WOW he actually had the inner strength to do that? WOW he really had a lot of anger to fuel that! and also about racing in general, relating to the pieces of him that are relatable.

Things I reacted to from this book:

- Interesting perspective of Harry Parker
 - It made me hunger for the feeling of rowing again, physically and psychologically
 - relatable pieces: the self-doubt, the failure while at the same time being great and doing incredible things, the burning desire to be the best, to do it as best as you can.
 - facts and pieces of information just about the rowing world. Dates and names and tidbits about the Way It Was.
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Kellen Proctor says

Very rarely do you find and read a book that you were meant to read at a particular moment in time. For me this was that book and now was that time. It's funny because this was also one of those books that you "borrow" from a friend, only to let languish on your shelf for the better part of a decade. I recently discovered it after going through a box from college, and decided it was about time to read and send it back. I couldn't have chosen a better time.

The prose is simple. The author's message is straightforward. If you've ever done any competitive athletics, you might understand what Brad Lewis is talking about. But only if you've rowed, only if you've had your legs burning till numbness with 5 minutes of a 2k remaining, will you truly understand everything he is saying. I had goosebumps one too many times, and the conclusion, although known to anyone who has access to Wikipedia, still made me want to jump out of my chair and run down to the nearest Rowing Club.

I'm happy I had the opportunity to read this book, and share in Brad Lewis' mentality and success, and I hope that the original owner has the opportunity to again share this with someone else, who may need it too.

Ajk says

The. Most. Inspirational. Book. Probably one of the principal works in teaching me not to complain and be stupid but rather to try hard and be awesome.

Ian says

Enjoyed this. Reading it made me find an extra gear on the water, which sucked, naturally.

Meredith says

I thoroughly enjoyed this very inspiring story of how the author relentlessly pursued his Olympic medal dream. The book is full of ferocity, strong opinions and performance-improving tips that any seriously

competitive sculler will appreciate. But its many moments of real humanity and vulnerability are also truly moving.

Robert Cretu says

Simply incredible. A story of struggle, of anger, of fighting against insurmountable odds. Even if you're not into rowing, the story is a great motivator.
