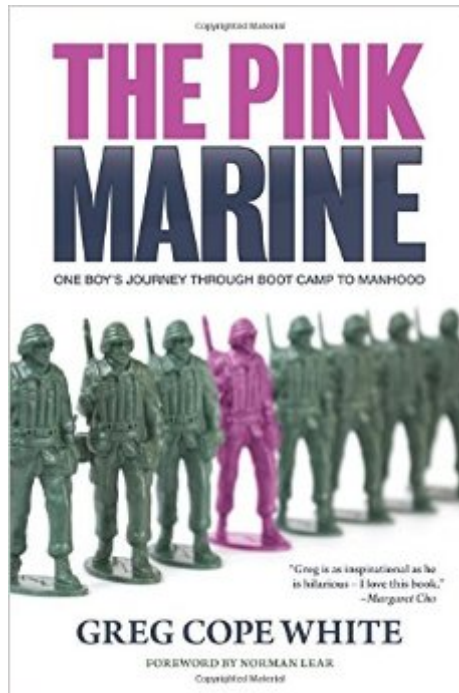


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The Pink Marine: One Boy's Journey Through Bootcamp To Manhood



Synopsis

The Pink Marine is the story--full of hilarity and heartbreak--of how a teenage boy who struggles with self-acceptance and doesn't fit the traditional definition of masculinity finds acceptance and self-worth in a bizarre world. "TV comedy writer White's inspiring, coming-of-age memoir." Kirkus Reviews

When Greg Cope White's best friend tells him he's spending his summer in Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, all Greg hears is 'summer' and 'camp'. Despite dire warnings from his friend, Greg vows to join him in recruit training. He's eighteen, underweight, he's never run a mile-and he's gay. Greg's sheltered life hadn't prepared him for military service. A prince out of water, he packed five suitcases since he'd never been away from home for thirteen weeks. The U.S. Marines stripped him from all of that, shaved his head and put a rifle in his hands. At first he struggles to keep up, and afraid his secret will be discovered. But midway through, the desire to survive and become a Marine trumps fear. He learns that everyone, just like in the real world, comes into the service feeling 'different'; possibly prejudged for the color of their skin, their weight, their poverty--some have even chosen boot camp over jail. Can a flighty, 112-pound, unmanly Texan transform into one of the few, the proud, the Marines? Will Greg even survive?

Advanced Praise for The Pink Marine "A great story beautifully told-surprising, funny, courageous and inspiring." David Hyde Pierce "Greg is as inspirational as he is hilarious--I love this book!" Margaret Cho, Comedienne (Dr. Ken, Drop Dead Diva) "Marine Corps boot camp was the toughest thing I ever did. I had to cope with being skinny, weak, and timid in a place that demanded strength, confidence, and fearlessness. But I didn't have to cope with being gay or having to hide who I actually was... The Pink Marine is a wonderful book and I'm proud to be Greg Cope White's fellow jarhead." Jim Beaver, Actor/U.S. Marine (Justified, Deadwood) "For five years, on a television show called Covert Affairs, I had the privilege of pretending to be a member of the U.S. military. For six years, in the United States Marines, my friend Greg pretended to be straight. He wins. The Pink Marine will inspire you, make you laugh, and remind you of what's important in this life." Christopher Gorham, Actor (Covert Affairs, Popular, Ugly Betty) "If you're searching for the next great memoir, it's arrived. Greg Cope White's The Pink Marine is both funny and relentlessly honest. If we have any reason to celebrate the imposed silence of President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, The Pink Marine is it. If Greg had talked back then, we wouldn't have this book now. The Marines got a great soldier out of it. And we civilians got a great author." Peter MacNichol, Actor (Numb3rs, Ally McBeal)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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's 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.

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