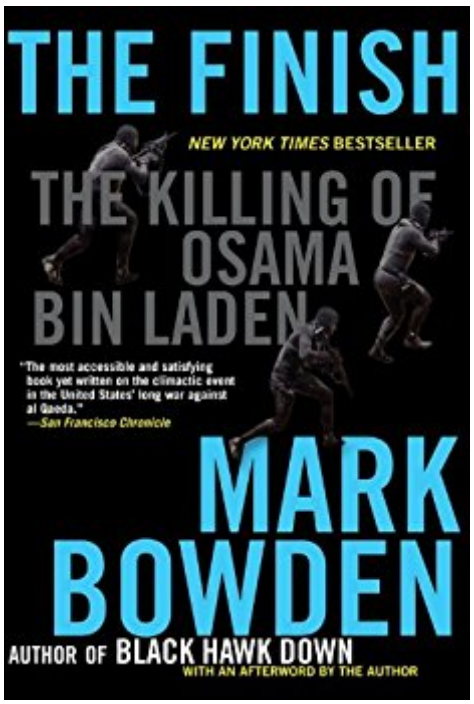
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The Finish: The Killing Of Osama Bin Laden



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Synopsis

From Mark Bowden, the preeminent chronicler of our military and special forces, comes The Finish, a gripping account of the hunt for Osama bin Laden. With access to key sources, Bowden takes us inside the rooms where decisions were made and on the ground where the action unfolded.After masterminding the attacks of September 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden managed to vanish. Over the next ten years, as Bowden shows, America found that its war with al Qaeda—a scattered group of individuals who were almost impossible to track—demanded an innovative approach. Step by step, Bowden describes the development of a new tactical strategy to fight this war—the fusion of intel from various agencies and on-the-ground special ops. After thousands of special forces missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, the right weapon to go after bin Laden had finally evolved. By Spring 2011, intelligence pointed to a compound in Abbottabad; it was estimated that there was a 50/50 chance that Osama was there. Bowden shows how three strategies were mooted: a drone strike, a precision bombing, or an assault by Navy SEALs. In the end, the President had to make the final decision. It was time for the finish.

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Customer Reviews

I only liked this book, am a big fan of Mark Bowden. His work with Black Hawk Down, and Killing Pablo are his best. Those two books were objective and thorough. This one is more a history lesson with much of the current Presidential Administration Input and thoughts. I did not need the history of the life of the President, and it took the focus off the book which was the efforts by the intelligence community to find U.B.L.. To that end, if you are looking for a book about how Bin Laden was found and taken out, this one is not it. I do understand that much is still classified, but there are far better books out there that explain the demise of U.B.L. better, and leave the politics out.

Mark Bowden’s latest book, "The Finish," details the 10-year effort to find and deal with Osama Bin Laden. Unlike Mark Owens/Mark Bissonette’s earlier "No Easy Day," Bowden’s book focuses on the actual hunt for the terrorist chief, detailing how the American military and defense communities retooled themselves to deal with a terrorist enemy that was everywhere and nowhere at once. President Obama receives some kudos for keeping OBL’s capture/killing a top priority and for his unusually forceful decision to enter Pakistan to carry that out. But he also receives some censure for taking too much credit for the mission’s success.Unlike "No Easy Day," the Bin Laden raid comprises only one chapter of "The Finish," which, according to Bowden, draws upon Owens’ account for details. Both should be read, along with Esquire magazine’s recent article, "The Shooter," in order to begin framing an opinion on what happened that night. Two facts emerge -- one, there was practically no chance bin Laden was going to be taken alive; and two, the "fog of war" is a real thing. We have three accounts, maybe four if you count Zero Dark Thirty, and maybe three different versions of what happened.Bowden, a professional journalist and author of "Blackhawk Down" and "Killing Pablo," among others, is always an entertaining writer. However, one is somewhat left with the impression that this book was rushed to print in reaction to news events.

a well written book easy to read for the average adult. Author Bowden goes into details on the politics of the hunt for UBL including sections on Obama and his outlook on hunting down UBL as well as his promise to go into Pakistan if high value targets found there, and the use of drones to kill terrorists in Yemen and Pakistan. The actual raid/killing of UBL is not as detailed as the book written by the SEAL who wrote under a pen name and was on the raid and fired shots into UBL body killing him. I am always interested in any book about the killing of UBL and details of the operation, due to my obsession with the termination of the terrorist who financed and coaxed the hijackers into

attacking America on Nine Eleven. I want to know a lot about how justice was done and UBL was killed cowering in his bedroom hiding behind his youngest wife.

In one of the first nonfiction accounts of the lengthy & successful hunt for Osama Bin Laden Mark Bowden recounts the search without leaving any important details out. But in way too many details make it a difficult, at times, read for me. It was okay but Hue 1968 is Bowden's best work. Still, the last chapter on how the raid went is up to Zero Dark Thirty.

First, Bowden is a very good, highly readable writer. Second, great story, well told.My problem with the book is that Bowden shared a story, but not much in the way of deep insight. The book reads as if Bowden generally agrees with President Obama's world view, history and insights without much critical analysis (e.g., Afghanistan was a good war; Iraq was a bad war). Administration officials, including the President are quoted at length, but little they assert is analyzed. I kept telling myself that he is telling the story of the search/attack, not an analysis of political philosophy, or American politics. But a little more context would have strengthened the work.

Nice read, well edited, some good interview and quote information. I had read some other books about this raid and other than tow or three items, did not find much new information.

Informative, doesn't cover the differences in the story and leaks, but we'll worth reading.

Not much in the book that I hadn't already read about in other accounts.

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