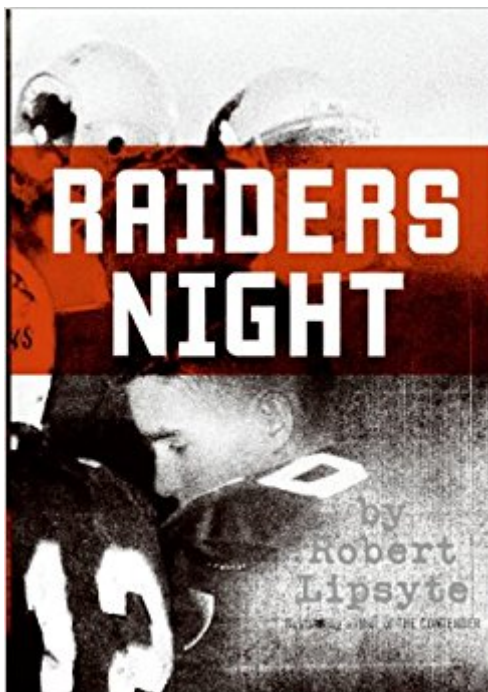


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Raiders Night



Synopsis

The pressure is on. At Nearmont High School, football stars are treated like royalty, and Matt Rydek has just ascended to the throne. As co-captain of the Raiders, he's got it all, or so it seems: hot girls, all the right friends, plenty of juice to make him strong, and a winning team poised to go all the way. If he can keep his eye on the ball now, his future will be set, with a full ride to a Division One school, a shot at the pros, and—most important—his dad off his back. But when the team turns on one of its own, should Matt play by Raiders rules, or should he go long alone? Robert Lipsyte, an award-winning journalist, in consultation with Dr. Michael J. Miletic, a leading sports psychiatrist, takes a hard-hitting look at the world of competitive high school sports in a novel straight from today's headlines.

Book Information

Hardcover: 232 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen; First Edition edition (August 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060599464

ISBN-13: 978-0060599461

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.9 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #800,219 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football](#) #163 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Sexual Abuse](#) #170 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Peer Pressure](#)

Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up—The Nearmont High School football team and the adults who support it see winning as the ultimate goal, even if it means resorting to illegal steroids. The players are the toast of the town, enjoying wild parties, drugs and alcohol, and girls who offer casual sex. Matt Rydek, one of the team's popular stars and a cocaptain, is torn between two girls and deals with a pushy father who lives vicariously through him. During preseason camp, the obnoxious and angry cocaptain, Ramp, assaults Chris, a new sophomore player and the object of his jealousy, and violates him with a baseball bat. The stunned upperclassmen, including Matt, don't tell anyone what they have witnessed, and although the coaches eventually learn the facts, they attempt to keep

them quiet and pacify Chris to prevent a scandal. When Chris finally confronts Ramp with a gun, Matt must make some serious decisions about revealing the truth. Realistically gritty language peppers on-the-mark dialogue in this disturbing tale of bullying and competitive fury taken too far. Matt is a strong character believably confused by the mixed messages he gets from those around him, including his father. The alarmingly clear depiction of athletes trying to conceal hideous violence is reminiscent of that in Erika Tamar's *Fair Game* (1993) and Nancy Garden's *Endgame* (2006, both Harcourt). Lipsyte has added to his repertoire a remarkable, tough, important story exposing various negative elements that are far too common in today's world of sports.

— Diane P. Tuccillo, City of Mesa Library, AZ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 10-12. This grim, disturbing story about high-school football centers on Matt, who is a co-captain of the Nearmont Raiders. With Division One schools aggressively recruiting him, Matt's future looks assured. His present, however, is a nightmare. Addicted to Vicodin and "juice," the regular shots of steroids he receives with the support of his father, Matt rides a nonstop emotional roller coaster: he hates himself for feeling embarrassed by his developmentally disabled brother, and he hates his father for living out failed dreams of athletic stardom vicariously through him. Matt even hates football after he witnesses his sadistic co-captain sexually assault a rookie player at a preseason hazing (a brutal, graphic scene involving a plastic bat). After initially going along with the team's cover-up of the incident, Matt cooperates when an investigation is launched. Lipsyte paints an ugly picture of a corrupt high-school athletics world ruled by arrogance, homophobia, sexism, and a pathological obsession with winning. Readers will feel Matt's pain as he struggles between turning his back on his team and listening to his conscience. One of the story's greatest tragedies is that Matt's decision to do the right thing seems so completely against the grain. Ed Sullivan

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My son read this for required reading and it is hard for him to find books to get into. The content of the book brought up a good discussion about bullying, hazing, and being an athlete and a man.

The Nearmont High School football season looks promising. The entire town expects great things from them --- Division, even State Championships --- and the team is on track for just such a season when they take off for preseason camp: two-a-day practices, morning wakeup calls, and Raider Pride Night, the traditional freshman initiation. Unfortunately, the ritual goes places it never should in

ways that might compromise their entire season and ruin any chances they might have in college football and the pros."The biggest enemy of best is good. If you're satisfied with what's good, you'll never be the best."Those words atop the Jerry Rice poster over Matt Rydeck's bed tell him everything he needs to know about football and life. He has to be willing to do what it takes, no matter what --- even if that involves staying loyal to his drug-using friends and even if that means using illegal steroids and Vicodin himself. They're supposed to take away the pain and help him heal faster. In the midst of all that, Matt would love to have a girl he could actually talk to, not just the typical girls who will follow any star receiver home after a party. He wants something more, someone with whom he can share his problems.What would Matt's life be like without all the stress? Without having to hide what really happened that night at camp? Without the responsibility that comes with being team captain? Without the baggage of former one-night flings? With Dad in his face loading on the pressure to succeed, Matt needs a way out of his slowly suffocating world, and breaking a few rules and hearts seems like the only way out of town, to a life with a little more freedom.In RAIDERS NIGHT, Robert Lipsyte has taken the experiences of "world-class athlete and sports psychiatrist" Michael J. Miletic, M.D. and re-molded them into a gripping story that's as fictional as it is real. The insider knowledge offers a glimpse into the competitive world of high school football players who are doing everything they can to make it to college and the pros, while at the same time navigate the complex webwork of their lives.Reviewed by Jonathan StephensFirst Published on TeenReads.Ãfâ Ã Â© Copyright 1997-2006, TeenReads. All rights reserved.

Raiders Night is an excellent story about a high school football star facing a moral dilemma after a violent hazing incident in the locker room. Conflict and tension build from the first page to the last. Still, I didn't like the author's voice, and I doubt I'll read another of his novels. There was too much telling instead of showing - sometimes page upon page of narrative without any scenes. The dialogue was bland and uninteresting. Characterization was weak (other than the protagonist who was drawn fairly well). Finally, none of the characters were likeable, not even the hero. I'll give this book three stars based on the strength of the story, but young adults deserve better writing than this.

The plot was good and believable, but the characters were not well developed. None of the characters are likeable. Would be better if there was more background given on the main characters.

This book had so much going on an action packed story definitely worth reading. The best football book I ever read.

This is a short but well written book. One graphic scene (brief) will cause you to hesitate before passing it on to your teen but in my opinion the value of the lesson is strong and outweighs the desire to shelter your children. In the end it is about making the right choices, standing up, and doing the right thing. Our hero comes through!

This was a bit more interesting with the sports element - so if you are an adolescent gay jock this would be a good read for you

A powerful book to place in your class library for student use. A great guide to incorporate in conversational circles for older teens.

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Raiders Night Mary Higgins Clark; The Night Collection (Silent Night & All Through the Night) [Abridged, Audiobook] [Audio CD] Jeaniene Frost Books Checklist and Reading Order : Night Prince series in order, Night Huntress series in order, Broken Destiny series in order and Night Huntress World series in order U-Boats: The Illustrated History of the Raiders of the Deep Sea Killers in Disguise: Q Ships & Decoy Raiders of WWI Center Ice (Corrigan Falls Raiders) Big Country, Volume 1: Stories of Louis L'Amour (Ride, You Tonto Raiders; and War Party) The Raiders of Joppa (Z Graphic Novels / Son of Samson) (v. 4) The Sea Raiders The Devil Knows How To Ride: The True Story Of William Clarke Quantril And His Confederate Raiders The Blockade: Runners and Raiders (The Civil War Series, Vol. 3) Raiders and Blockaders: The American Civil War Afloat The Rebel Raiders: The Astonishing History of the Confederacy's Secret Navy Pirates of New England: Ruthless Raiders and Rotten Renegades Edson's Raiders: The 1st Marine Raider Battalion in World War II (Leatherneck Classics) Bloody Ridge and Beyond: A World War II Marine's Memoir of Edson's Raiders in the Pacific German Commerce Raiders 1914-18 (New Vanguard) The Land: Raiders: A LitRPG Saga (Chaos Seeds Book 6) Stone Raiders' Return (Emerilia Book 6) Breakaway (Corrigan Falls Raiders)

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