



The Making of a Navy SEAL: My Story of Surviving the Toughest Challenge and Training the Best

Brandon Webb (Introduction) , Marcus Luttrell (Foreword)

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BEFORE HE COULD FORGE A BAND OF ELITE WARRIORS... HE HAD TO BECOME ONE HIMSELF.

Adapted from Webb's Adult Bestseller *The Red Circle* for a Young Adult Audience

Brandon Webb's experiences in the world's most elite sniper corps are the stuff of legend. From his grueling years of training in Naval Special Operations to his combat tours in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan, *The Making of a Navy SEAL* provides a rare and riveting look at the inner workings of the U.S. military through the eyes of a covert operations specialist.

Yet it is Webb's distinguished second career as a lead instructor for the shadowy "sniper cell" and Course Manager of the Navy SEAL Sniper Program that trained some of America's finest and deadliest warriors—including Marcus Luttrell and Chris Kyle—that makes his story so compelling. Luttrell credits Webb's training with his own survival during the ill-fated 2005 Operation Redwing in Afghanistan. Kyle went on to become the U.S. military's top marksman, with more than 150 confirmed kills.

From a candid chronicle of his student days, going through the sniper course himself, to his hair-raising close calls with Taliban and al Qaeda forces in the northern Afghanistan wilderness, to his vivid account of designing new sniper standards and training some of the most accomplished snipers of the twenty-first century, Webb provides a rare look at the making of the Special Operations warriors who are at the forefront of today's military.

Explosive, revealing, and intelligent, *The Making of a Navy SEAL* provides a uniquely personal glimpse into one of the most challenging and secretive military training courses in the world.

The Making of a Navy SEAL: My Story of Surviving the Toughest Challenge and Training the Best Details

Date : Published August 25th 2015 by St. Martin's Griffin

ISBN : 9781250069429

Author : Brandon Webb (Introduction) , Marcus Luttrell (Foreword)

Format : Hardcover 256 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, War, Military Fiction, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

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Challenge and Training the Best Brandon Webb (Introduction) , Marcus Luttrell (Foreword)**

From Reader Review The Making of a Navy SEAL: My Story of Surviving the Toughest Challenge and Training the Best for online ebook

Chad says

I enjoyed this book! A quick, easy read that is just the right size. Bravo Zulu to Brandon Webb for giving a real account of what his time in the service was like. Short, insightful chapters that tell it like it is in going through U.S. Navy SEAL training and then what really follows after that. Some author feel the need to write more than they should, but Mr. Webb kept it simple and to the point. My boys have already expressed an interest in reading this and I strongly feel that they will enjoy it like I did.

I received this book through the goodreads giveaway program. What a great program and I thank all those that made it possible for me to receive a free copy of this well done non-fiction book.

Keaton Peck says

The Making of a Navy Seal is about a guy who has a dream in becoming a Navy Seal. The story tells you about his life and the events that led up to him achieving his dream. I like this story because it explains his child life and the things that helped him become a better man and a Navy Seal. I also like this book because the way the chapter are ordered is the order of his life. I would highly recommend this book to people who also want to become a Navy Seal, or even just ti read a great book.

Jake Ratermann says

The Dream Job

The Navy SEALs are the most infamous task force our military has. They are the elite of the elite and practice nothing but protection. The book The Making of a Navy SEAL (2010) written by Brandon Webb, illustrates the true dream of hardships of becoming a SEAL. This book not only captures the moments and difficulty the SEALs go through in their training but what goes on after the training and into the real life job of being a SEAL. Brandon Webb, a former Navy Seal part of SEAL Team 7 was a special forces sniper graduating top of his class and becoming an officer at age 24. He documents the true first hand experience of the life and training it takes to make a Navy SEAL.

This novel captures these hardships with such detail allowing you to take in every moment. Brandon does an excellent job giving the reader an expressive detailed look so they can almost imagine how it was like to go through all the pain. Brandon takes the reader on a journey through obstacles, adventures, action, and most of all suspense. He keeps his reader locked in at all times which is crucial to his unique audience. Most audiences of the war genre are looking for a book that will keep the edge of their seat, and need to feel as if they are in the actual war situations. I feel as if Webb could not do a better job of describing the struggles with more emotion, it sometimes feels as if he is scanning through them with details but leaving out the real feelings he had through the process. This is important because it reaches the reader in a totally new intriguing environment.

Throughout the novel Webb uses his own personal experiences to help improve his storyline. His experiences of growing up and becoming a boy and how his interests slowly changed throughout the course of his life. This is a great way to relate to the reader in how they grew up and how each one of us had our own unique adventure that transformed our lives. The dialogue that is portrayed through this book is full of emotion even through times of decision making and. high stake situations it never loses its intensity.

Webb showing his struggles throughout the novel gives the audience a true feel on what it truly takes to become a SEAL. He always inserts hidden messages throughout his narration of his specific journey through the SEAL program. One thing that he wants to stick with his audience is if the opportunity comes never be hesitant to take it. Life gives you so many amazing things and it's up to you to notice it. He also coins the term, "Take pain, harness it, and turn it into aggression." He states that the way of life and things that the SEAL Teams teach can be used in every aspect of life. The way they talk about never giving up, surrounding yourself with successful people, and always being comfortable being uncomfortable. All these things are what Webb wants the readers to take from this book. This type of writing is very meaningful and the author shows his devotion to the Teams and how much he values character.

In conclusion I find this book to be a very intense, edge of your seat read. It gave me a taste for adventure and mindset of the struggles of the SEAL team. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a good read with tones of action and military role play. Webb did an incredible job of portraying what it takes and how becoming a SEAL is amazing. Brandon not only helps the reader grow in knowledge about the SEALs, but he teaches valuable messages and connects to the reader on an emotional level. I would definitely rate this at the top of my list for best military books I've ever read.

Cole Lewis says

Cole Lewis

Mrs. St. Clair

English 10

6 March 2017

The Making of a Navy Seal

The making of a Navy Seal by Brandon Webb truly tells the story behind Americans' greatest warriors. The book is a story of Brandon's life and how he got to the point he is at today. He starts his story with describing his life before the military with his parents. They would send him off to work on a boat every summer for massive time periods to get him out of trouble. He learned to love the sea and began scuba diving at a young age. He then hears about the SEALs and turns his focus on becoming one. He goes through many different programs before being allowed to go to BUD/S to train to be a seal, once in BUD/S he is pulled aside and is asked to join the sniper category of the seal training course. And from there on he becomes a master sniper and rebuilds the seal training from the ground up to help all other military become a seal. I found this book to be one of the best that I've ever read due to the fact that I've always wanted to be in the Navy. It gives a great deal of detail when talking about the expeditions and the training required and I found it very interesting. I overall loved the book and would mostly recommend this book to people who are very patriotic or into the military.

Laura says

I bought this book at a school book fair. Several of my students are interested in war books. I prefer to stock my classroom library with books that inspire my students to push themselves to be better (Excellence

Matters!) than those that inspire them to violence. This is one of those books.

To be honest, this book is dry. Really dry. But I think my students who are truly interested in war and real military will find this a good read. The details serve to push the difficulties encountered to becoming the best of the best. On the other hand, many other details are glossed over as being either unfit for young eyes or still under the heading of Top Secret.

Even the obscuring of the faces in the photographs serve to prove "this is real." I think it will take a special student to enjoy this book but I also think I have several special students.

Ethan Starck says

In the book becoming a navy seal it goes through the author, Brandon Webb's point of view before, during, and after Navy Seal training. Brandon Webb was doubted by a lot of people in his life but he overcame all the haters and became a Navy Seal sniper. At the age of 16 Webb was thrown off his fathers boat and forced to live with his summer boss and good friend. Webb heard people talking about Navy Seal training and he decided to do research about it. He found out that being a Navy Seal involved a lot of diving and underwater missions. Webb had been diving his whole life so he decided to enlist in training. Having read the book I found out that Navy Seal training is one of the hardest things the human body can endure. Webb makes it through training and becomes a very successful Navy Seal sniper. I hope you consider reading this book.

Suzi says

a remarkable story of the courage of the men who become navy SEALs. Brandon Webb has lead an amazing life and this is an interesting read.

Ms. Yingling says

ARC from Baker and Taylor

In this memoir, Navy SEAL Webb briefly tells the story of his formative years, during which his family lived on boats and his father once threw him out in the middle of the South Pacific, his years as a SEAL (which included time as a sniper), and his career as a military trainer. It touches briefly on his personal life but concentrates on his various assignments and the life lessons he learned from them.

There are lots of good descriptions about what life is like in the SEALs, and while his missions aren't given too much detail, there is enough to appeal to readers who are fascinated by the military. There wasn't a lot of plot or character development-- this read more like a annotated list of assignments, which made it less enjoyable for me.

The most disappointing part for me was reading the epilogue where Webb gives the briefest possible overview of his activity after 2006. He mentions delivering over a million dollars in cash, finding informers and other secret agent type activities that my readers would ADORE. Perhaps that is another book!

Depending on whether or not this has an Accelerated Reader test for it, and on how many readers I have who

are interested in the armed forces, I may buy this. It's a decent length, fairly engaging, and a better choice than some of the adult memoirs on similar topics, since those tend to include questionable language and situations. Probably will purchase.

Matthew says

I love this book. Brandon grew up always near and on the water until his dad threw him off his boat. This book is about a guy named Brandon Webb who goes through this intense Navy Seal training. Once he finishes his training in about four years, he and his friend are immediately offered a position in the Navy Seal Sniper program. They both had no hesitation and accepted the position. He even graduated that too. When he graduated he trained one of Americas deadliest snipers, Chris Kyle. Chris was no joke. He hit every single target right in the center every time every day and at a fast paced rate. Brandon then went on to train almost every elite sniper in the history of the Navy Seal Sniper program. in conclusion this book was great and I loved it. I would recommend it to a 6th or 7th grader.

Jackson E. says

This book was very inspiring and I enjoyed reading it. I liked how it talked about the different challenges and how hard it is to become a Navy Seal. It had a bunch of action. It was probably one of the best books.

Aiden Kessinger says

I really like this book it didn't take long for me to read it. Brandon Webb reminds me of Chris Kyle strong and not scared of any thang.

Derek Farwell says

This book, The Making of a Navy SEAL, was not what I was expecting. I chose this book anticipating multiple stories of Brandon Webb getting into fire fights and going on raids against terrorists. Instead, it was an account of his life before he became a SEAL and what made him decide to join this elite group of military men. The Making of a Navy SEAL tells what Brandon did after he was a SEAL and what impact he had on the whole system of the US Navy SEALs.

Although it surprised me, I loved this book because of its reality and how you should handle a situation when it doesn't go your way. When his wife divorced, him he didn't get down and depressed. He appreciated the positive things that happened in his marriage and saw his kids and spent as much time with them as he could. "A few weeks past my sixteenth birthday, my dad threw me off a boat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean."(Webb 43). Brandon empowered himself when his dad did this to him. He was thrown off the boat and had to figure out how to get home. He found people that were headed back to the United States and worked as a ship hand on their boat to earn his keep and helped that boat return to the mainland at the age of 16. I think the resilience he learned during this experience as a teenager helped him cope with the divorce. He left an inspiring mark on the SEAL training. To this day, the US military uses his techniques in sniper training. I don't have a personal connection to this book however I am inspired through his will to teach other military personnel to be the best they can be. His motto was excellence over mediocrity.

I would recommended this book to anyone that wants to read about real life experiences and how to manage yourself when you are down and feel like all the odds are against you. Brandon was an inspiration to read about. I also feel that this would give a lot of insight to anyone that might want to join the service and be a SEAL .

Steve says

“Excellence matters.” With those two words, Brandon Webb sums up the message he hoped to leave with the readers of this 2015 autobiography. Webb writes, “What (he) learned about being a Navy SEAL is, it’s all about excellence and about never giving up on yourself.”

If you’ve read any books written by other former Navy SEALs, this one isn’t much different. Yes, Webb did survive a somewhat dysfunctional family growing up. That may or may not be a common denominator with all the other SEAL team bios out there.

But here too, Webb gives us a detailed but very typical tour of Hell Week and beyond during training for BUD/S Class 215. Out of Webb’s original 220 classmates, only 23 made it through five weeks of indoctrination, six weeks of physical conditioning, eight weeks of diving and water skills training and nine weeks of land warfare. “Roughly ninety percent of (Webb’s) class had failed.” A more than seven-month trial by fire, not for the faint of heart.

Webb and his co-author, John David Mann, apparently aimed this military journal at twelve to fourteen year-old boys. In his forward, Webb writes, “What I wouldn’t give to be twelve years old again.” When Webb was fourteen, the author explains, he formed the desire to become a Navy SEAL. “Many kids (his) age and adults told (him) this was impossible. (Webb) calls these negative people dream stealers. Watch out for them. Let whatever they say stoke your dream fire a little more.” Webb goes on to advise his apparently young readers, “Remember that the tough times will eventually end . . . the best things in life take hard work and determination to complete. Think about this next time you’re practicing music, working on math, playing sports.” Webb told his readers, “Consider (this book) your own secret weapon to help you to pursue your ultimate dreams.”

I came away from Webb’s “story of surviving the toughest challenge and training the best” with a couple of surprises. I was a little shocked to learn that even with all his time in the Navy, Webb apparently served only one, six-month tour in the war zone of Afghanistan. I was not aware that legendary SEAL team members, Chris Kyle, (author of “American Sniper”), and Marcus Luttrell were the recipients of Webb’s own, newly-revised sniper course. In fact, Luttrell credits Webb with saving his life and allowing him to become “The Lone Survivor.”

After reading and reviewing so many of these former SEAL tell-all-tales, I still don’t understand why anyone would put themselves through the abusive SEAL training. I still don’t understand how even the fortunate few manage to survive.

Kaylee Wolf says

Thank you to Goodreads/St. Martin's Press for sending me a finished copy of The Making of a Navy SEAL!

What a stunning memoir. This was a fairly quick read, but was packed with a lot of cool and concise information. Reading this book feels like Brandon Webb is sitting right in front of you, sharing his story face-to-face.

What I liked:

Navy SEALs are a group of people that definitely spark my interest, so "getting in to" this book was something that was already going to be easy to do, but I feel like Webb made it even easier by finding that hard to achieve but incredibly rewarding balance of what information to share and information to leave out. The chapters were all fairly short and quick, but each one connected all of the dots and made sure the reader wasn't left questioning anything. The entirety of this story made me really love and admire Brandon Webb for all of the adversity he overcame and the severe determination he consistently displayed, whether he was struggling or succeeding. This book will be inspiring to many and entertaining to even more.

Its contents are spread out in six parts, which are as follows:

Part One Born Ready for Action: *A look in to Brandon's childhood, which sets up explanations for some of the traits he portrays later in life.*

Part Two Boot Camp Training: *Brandon's experiences at the Naval Training Center, the first step in his long journey to become a SEAL.*

Part Three Becoming a Navy Seal: *This is the section of the book that describes the intense training Brandon went through to become part of one of the most elite and lethal military teams in the world.*

Part Four One of America's Deadliest Snipers: *Here is where Brandon and his buddy Glen are offered slots in the even more elite sniper school. He goes through what this training consisted of, and this part was the most shocking to me. The things the men in the sniper school were asked to do absolutely blew my mind.*

Part Five Duty Calls: *This is the section that is dedicated to Brandon's one tour. This section also contains multiple pages of black-and-white images of Brandon's life, from his childhood to where the memoir leaves off.*

Part Six Continuing to Protect and Defend: *Brandon ends his memoir by talking about his work in redesigning and creating completely new sniper training courses. This part is the "Training the Best" part of the book.*

These sections help to differentiate between the stages of Brandon's life and make it much easier to understand and follow what goes on throughout the book. Even though they are separated, all of the parts connect to each other very well so that this book is a very smooth read despite the divides.

What I wasn't a fan of:

I don't have any complaints about this book! As I mentioned, the chapters are short and concise but each of them really packs a punch. I can confidently say that this would be a great read not just for people like me who are interested in Navy SEALs and the military in general, but also for those who are looking for a story that will give a great example of what it's like to persevere when it feels like the odds are, without a doubt, NOT in your favor.

Summary:

This book may not be exactly like what you're imagining in your head. There isn't a ton of actual on-duty action. Only one tour in Afghanistan is described, and while it was very interesting and nail-biting to read about, there isn't any of the gory warfare you might imagine when you think of a Navy SEAL sniper. With that being said, this memoir is still a wildly intriguing read. Brandon's accomplishments are something to be admired and I think his story is a great example of how greatness can come from any situation if you just persevere.

Thanks again to Goodreads/St. Martin's Press for sending me this book, and thanks to you guys for reading my review!

Ashtonr says

It was ok the beginning was very good but after he got his navy seal trident it started to get kind of repetitive and made me want to stop reading.
