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The Hike



Synopsis

From the author of *The Postmortal*, a fantasy saga unlike any you've listened to before, weaving elements of folk tale and video game into a riveting, unforgettable adventure of what a man will endure to return to his family. When Ben, a suburban family man, takes a business trip to rural Pennsylvania, he decides to spend the afternoon before his dinner meeting on a short hike. Once he sets out into the woods behind his hotel, he quickly comes to realize that the path he has chosen cannot be given up easily. With no choice but to move forward, Ben finds himself falling deeper and deeper into a world of man-eating giants, bizarre demons, and colossal insects. On a quest of epic, life-or-death proportions, Ben finds help comes in some of the most unexpected forms, including a profane crustacean and a variety of magical objects, tools, and potions. Desperate to return to his family, Ben is determined to track down the "Producer," the creator of the world in which he is being held hostage and the only one who can free him from the path. At once biting funny and emotionally absorbing, Magary's novel is a remarkably unique addition to the contemporary fantasy genre, one that draws as easily from the world of classic folk tales as it does from video games. In *The Hike*, Magary takes listeners on a daring odyssey away from our day-to-day grind and transports them into an enthralling world propelled by heart, imagination, and survival.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't even know where to begin. I try to read four or five books a month and haven't before considered leaving a review. I had to here. I'm a big fan of Magary's work, be it *Deadspin* (the

funbag!), his memoir on parenthood, *The Postmortal* (which, really I just thought was okay), and his appearance and subsequent white guy thumbdance celebration on *Chopped*. This book is everything and a little bit more for fiction fans. If you aren't a fan of the fantasy genre PLEASE do not let that discourage you. The book has such a great natural momentum, and the ending... It's excellent. I can go on and on but I won't. I'd recommend this book to any and everyone, including you. So go read it!

I have only a mild interest in the fantasy genre, but I've enjoyed Drew Magary's writing for a few years now so I preordered *The Hike* about a week ago. It arrived in the mail today around 4:00 PM, and I finished it before I went to bed. Masterfully paced and often hilarious, it's easily one of the best books I've read in years. I'll be recommending it to basically everyone. Magary has a casual but versatile voice that's perfect - if unorthodox - for a fantasy narrative. My only criticism is that I personally struggled to solve a simple puzzle that was presented shortly after the novel's halfway point. This made me feel dumb.

Bought this book a couple of days ago based on how much I liked Mr Magary's writing in *Postmortal* and in *GQ*. *The Hike* is a huge step forward for him as a writer. Tightly plotted with echoes of folk tales, buddy movies, and nightmares. Anyone who enjoyed *Cloud Atlas*, *Dark Tower*, or the *Matrix* movies but thought they could maybe have been better if they'd had a wiseass talking crab as a character - will love this book.

Good choice for an evening read. A solid mix of humor, adventure, suspense, the unexpected. Easy to get through in one sitting, but fast-changing scenes are distinct enough that it's also a good "pick up when you have small chunks of time" read. Looking forward to reading more from the author & will check out his columns. Thanks for your work.

Interesting story and a good read. But not as much a personal adventure as I first thought then a glimpse into the cruelty of the journey. It was written well enough that I felt those strong emotions of the main character, and while I usually prefer escapism, this novel does make you think about his odyssey for days afterwards.

So many great reviews, but I struggled to keep reading. Interesting premise, but what spoiled it for me is the way the plot is just one ridiculous, miraculous, life-saving occurrence after another. Gee,

how will the protagonist get out of this next mess? Oh, exactly what he needs will just magically appear from nowhere [for no reason, no connection whatsoever to anything else], over and over again. And... not particularly funny either. I couldn't even get 1/2 way through this. Maybe something later somehow ties it all together? I dunno, no more patience.

In fact, this book does not stink at all and is one of the best, most thought-provoking, funny and profound science fiction novels I've ever read. The less you know, the better, but the general plot is that Ben (a happily married father of three) goes on a hike and shenanigans ensue while he tries to get back home. His hike goes from scary to frustrating to funny to mind-warping to sisyphian and everything in between. For myself (the same age as Ben and the author, and also with 3 kids), it had a profound effect on me. It serves a reminder to consider all the good that we have in our lives that we might take for granted. At the end of the book (which you'll finish quickly) I gave my wife a giant hug and told her how much I loved her. Not many books generate an emotional response like that. Some people have read this book, but many, many more have NOT read this book yet. If you're a fan of Magary (despite his taste in the Vikings and clothing notwithstanding), you owe it to yourselves and others to read this book.

I needed a book that didn't require me to commit to a series. This was a quick read that took a days time off and on. It was very enjoyable and frankly would be an amazing movie. This is an adult Alice in wonderland crossed with a wonderful life crossed with some sci Fi. Awesomeness!!!

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Take a Hike, Teddy Roosevelt! (Step into Reading) The Appalachian Trail Food Planner: Second Edition: Recipes and Menus for a 2,000-Mile Hike Fifty Places to Hike Before You Die: Outdoor Experts Share the World's Greatest Destinations Hawaii The Big Island Trailblazer: Where to hike, snorkel, surf, bike, drive The Appalachian Trail, Step by Step: How to Prepare for a Thru or Long Distance Section Hike Trespassing Across America: One Man's Epic, Never-Done-Before (and Sort of Illegal) Hike Across the Heartland I Hike The Hike The Hike into the Sun: Memoir of an American Soldier Captured on Bataan in 1942 and Imprisoned by the Japanese Until 1945

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