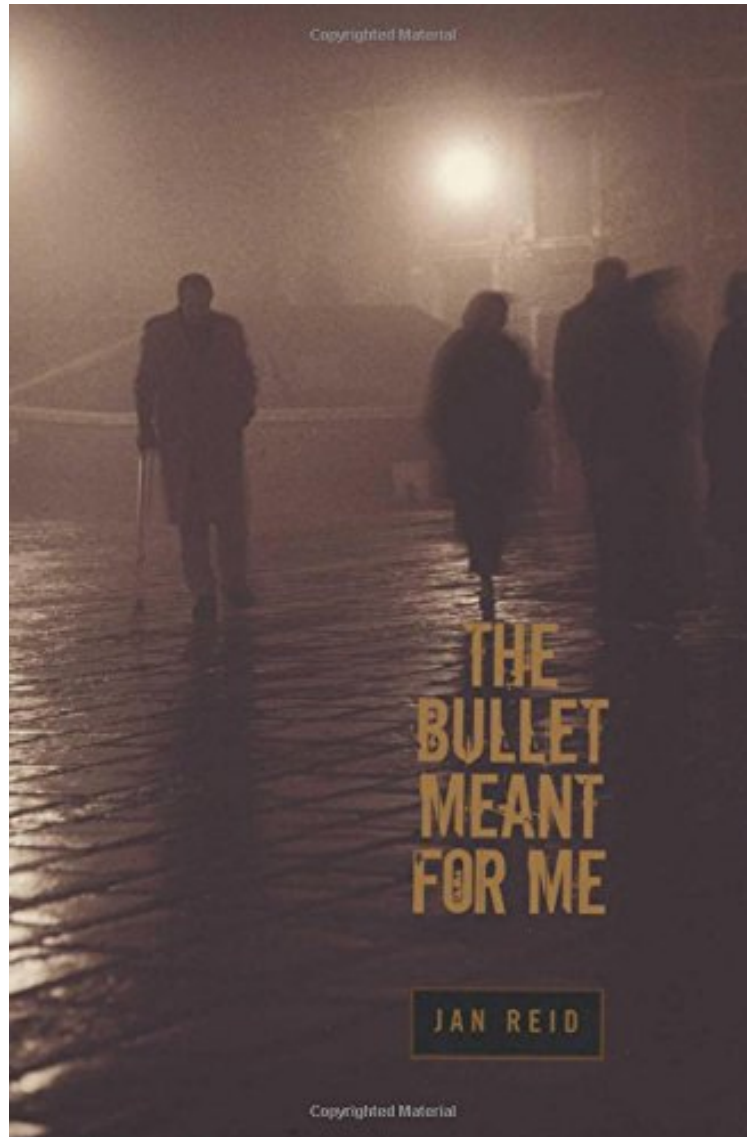


[Read now] The Bullet Meant for Me

The Bullet Meant for Me

Jan Reid

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3997054 in Books 2005-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .62 x 6.001, .86 #File Name: 0292709730285 pages | File size: 27.Mb

Jan Reid : The Bullet Meant for Me before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bullet Meant for Me:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By James E. O'Malley, Jr. Worth every penny 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Writing with gloves on . . . By Ronald Scheer Writer Jan Reid has written an absorbing and sometimes harrowing account of a life suddenly altered by the shot of a gun in a robbery attempt. Although the book begins with that incident on a deserted street in Mexico City and ends with a return trip to the scene

of the crime years later, it concerns itself as much with the author's interest in boxing and his friendship with a young Mexican-American boxer, Jesus Chavez. Sometimes a meditation on the dynamics of proving one's manhood with high-risk behavior, especially as these are played out in Texas, with its more violent history, the book is as much about friendship and marriage. Reid tells a story of growing up in north-central Texas and discovering boxing as a young man with no particular self-confidence or promise. Returning to the sport in later years, while working as a writer in Austin, he recovers a sense of purpose that agility in the ring had once given him, and he is able to share this feeling of accomplishment for an audience of readers who may have little sympathy for the sport. While you may never care to put on a pair of gloves yourself after reading the book, you can grant him the validity of his own point of view, that the sport harnesses physical power with a kind of grace and courage that in a well-fought match can inspire admiration. How his ability to throw a punch at an adversary determines the outcome of his encounter with an armed robber is not completely resolved in the book. Although the punch didn't connect, he may well have been shot - and killed - anyway. And for half of the book, as he recovers some use of his legs with surgery and physical therapy, while enduring staggering pain and the uncertainty of the future of his marriage, Reid's achievement in the book is a coming to terms with that ambiguity. And it doesn't give too much away to reveal that he returns to the gym in Austin, on the support of a cane, to put on gloves again. I don't know Reid, and he may be a very different man in person, but he comes across as someone you would like to have as a friend - courageous, and the last to admit it, coming to terms with the world in his own way and determined to take on adversity even while it means never fully overcoming self-doubt.

On April 20, 1998, Jan Reid was shot during a robbery in Mexico City, where he had gone to watch his friend, the boxer Jesus Chavez, fight. In *The Bullet Meant for Me*, Reid powerfully recounts his ordeal, the long chain of life events that brought him to that fateful attack, and his struggle to regain the ability to walk and to be a full partner in a deeply satisfying marriage. Re-examining the whole trajectory of his life, Reid questions how much the Texan ideal of manhood shaped his identity, including his love for boxing and participation in the sport. He meditates on male friendship as he tells the story of his close relationship with Chavez, whose career and personal travails Reid details with empathy and insight. And he describes his long months in physical therapy, during which he drew on the unwavering love of his wife and daughter, as well as the courage and strength he had learned from boxing, to heal his body and spirit. A moving, intimate portrait of a man, a friendship, and a marriage, *The Bullet Meant for Me* is Jan Reid's most personal book.

"Simultaneously haunting and heartwarming, this memoir brings the horror of random (or almost random) violence fully to life and demonstrates how one man used that experience as a stepping-stone toward his own intellectual enlightenment." (Washington Post) "Reid has written a striking, intensely personal, and emotionally honest record of his life." (Publishers Weekly) "There's a wealth of strong imagery in this memoir, but what truly generates its power is the magnetism of decency that allows the writer, and vicariously the reader, to rise beyond fear and the chaos of rage." (Denver Post) "How rare they seem in the world, these too-few stories of redemption and dignity. *The Bullet Meant for Me* is alternately nightmarish and light-filled, and impossible to turn away from." (Rick Bass) "Jan Reid's memoir is a powerful story of love, loss, and one kind of redemption. Living to tell such a tale is an accomplishment in itself, but it takes an even greater talent to write it so beautifully." (Abraham Verghese) "This is an honest, enthralling memoir that hits with the impact of a bullet in the gut. Reading it will force you to reevaluate many things you take for granted." (Bud Shrake) "How rare they seem in the world, these too-few stories of redemption and dignity. *The Bullet Meant for Me* is alternately nightmarish and light-filled, and impossible to turn away from." (Rick Bass) "Jan Reid's memoir is a powerful story of love, loss, and one kind of redemption. Living to tell such a tale is an accomplishment in itself, but it takes an even greater talent to write it so beautifully." (Abraham Verghese) "This is an honest, enthralling memoir that hits with the impact of a bullet in the gut. Reading it will force you to reevaluate many things you take for granted." (Bud Shrake) From the Inside Flap "Abducted at gunpoint and fearing for his life, Jan Reid took a swing at the gunman and missed. A muzzle flashed, and the bullet that struck his spine would send his life careening out of control-until he looked within himself, and to his family and friends, and found healing. When Reid's friends talk him into coming along to an Austin boxing gym for a workout, he has no idea it will send him down a path that will completely change his life. Inside, in a ring held together with duct tape and the blood and sweat of a group of gritty boxers, Reid falls under the spell of the sport. As his skills develop, his relationships with his fellow boxers deepen, especially with the talented young Mexican immigrant, Jesus Chavez. Through Chavez's promising career, and his own informal sparring, Reid plunges into the culture of competition among men. But then, just when Chavez achieves a number-one world ranking, he is deported to Mexico. Heartbroken, Reid travels to Mexico City to watch Chavez begin his comeback, when a bombshell of a different sort blows open Reid's own life: One night, after celebrating Chavez's victory in a shadowy part of Mexico City, "pistoleros carjack the taxi he is sharing with his friends. In the ensuing scuffle, a bandit fires a bullet that pierces Reid's left arm, rips through his abdomen, and lodges itself in his spine, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. Reid then confronts new kinds of struggles in which the rules are no longer clear-the

battle to regain the ability to walk, to bolster his marriage, to untangle his newly complicated relationship with Mexico, a country he once loved, and to live with dignity. Inspired by the love and valor of his wife, Dorothy, and daughter, Lila, Reid also draws on lessons from the boxing ring-physical conditioning, discipline, controlling frustration, and overcoming fear. Thus begins Reid's physical and emotional journey to recover his strength, his masculinity, and his sense of self. Reid not only examines the effects of his physical disability but also offers a revealing portrait of the testosterone-driven worlds that collided on that fateful night. With the observational prowess of a journalist and the raw power of a fighter, Reid shares in these pages his discovery of the value of other kinds of strength-and his new perspective on the evolution of Western male culture and machismo alike. Rich with insight and vividly told, this is the remarkable story of a true survivor.