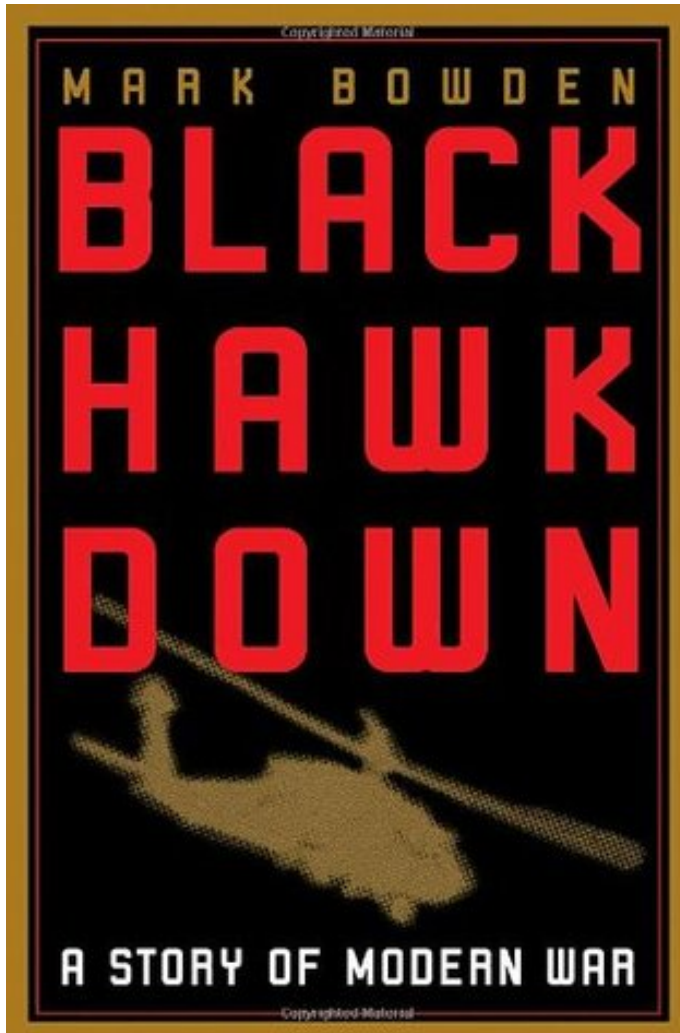

Mark Bowden

Black Hawk Down



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Description

On October 3, 1993, about a hundred U.S. soldiers were dropped by helicopter into a teeming market in the heart of Mogadishu, Somalia, to abduct two top lieutenants of a Somali warlord. The action was supposed to take an hour. Instead, they spent a long and terrible night fighting thousands of armed Somalis. By morning, eighteen Americans were dead, and more than seventy badly injured. Mark Bowden's gripping narrative is one of the most exciting accounts of modern war ever written--a riveting story that captures the heroism, courage and brutality of battle.

Insightful reviews

Mike: The movie is a gore-fest, but the book chronicles all the background intricacies that you can't find in a movie (of course). One highlight for me: When I finished reading the book, my son, who was in Iraq at the time, told me he had met one of the men who survived this incident. However, he also told me he met this man as he was being flown out for a cancer checkup. This man who had escaped this brutal attack had cancer two years later. After surviving that, he went on to go back into the Army and was a leader in the early days of the Iraq Occupation. One sad note: He was killed when the Medivac helicopter taking him to his cancer checkup in Baghdad was shot down in November 2003. My son was the last person to see him alive on the ground...he helped to load him into the helicopter. This book will always be a memorial to him.

Joni: Okay, first of all, I am not usually the person that likes "war" type books. But, I have wanted to read this book for awhile. I remember when this actually happened, but being a freshman in high school, I had bigger things going on... Throughout this book, I kept asking myself "who are these guys??" It amazes me what wonderful guys are serving my country. I had to giggle when a group of men were holed up in a shack with many of the Somalians closing in on them, blood was seeping everywhere from everyone. Stebbins who's foot has a golf ball size piece of metal in it is given a pain killer and a gun to protect out the window. Medic says "Here's a gun, you can guard this window." "okay" says Stebbins. "But as your health care professional, I feel I should warn you that narcotics and fire arms don't mix." I did cry & get choked up throughout this book, either because of what was going on at the time and or hearing first hand accounts. Then at the end, when the author is talking about how people quickly forgot what had happend there and brushed it under the carpet with a new and more exciting news cycle, "This book is written for them." I actual cried. Their bravery and selflessness of our military is outstanding, and I can't tell you how proud I am of each and everyone of them.

Pramod Nair: If '**Black Hawk Down** was a war novel, it would definitely have a place among the very best of that genre. Written with such intensity, this military history volume by journalist *Mark Bowden*, brilliantly captures every minute moments from one of the longest modern day infantry engagements.

When American soldiers were dropped by helicopter into the *Bakara market* right in the heart of *Mogadishu, Somalia* on October 3 1993 for a supposedly easy in and out abduction mission they had no idea that they were going to be part of *one of the most terrible, long and sustained*

close-combat firefights since Vietnam war.

The mission was straightforward; abduct two top brass lieutenants of the self-proclaimed president-to-be *Mohamed Farrah Aidid* from a building in Bakara Market. After careful planning and recon the mission was given to a joint group of soldiers consisting of the U.S. Army Rangers from Bravo Company, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta and Air Force men and helicopters from 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. But the dynamics of engagement changed right from the start of the mission *as the fluidity and unpredictability of battlefield took over* and blew away best-laid operational plans; resulting in a mission which was thought of as a cake-walk turn horribly wrong with two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters shot down and the troops pinned down with heavy armed resistance from Somali militiamen loyal to Aidid.

A mission, that was believed to be over in a couple hours turned into a long and bloody night battle right in the middle of an urban market teeming with thousands of armed Somalis and civilians. The trapped raiding party finally had to be rescued by a relief convoy made up of elements from Task Force 2-14 Infantry and 10th Mountain Division, accompanied by Malaysian and Pakistani U.N. forces. When the battle was over the casualties among the Somalis were over 2000 with a lot of civilians among them and of the initial raiding force 18 American soldiers were dead, with more than 70 badly injured and one of the Black Hawk pilots captured by Aidid's men. Of the rescue forces one Pakistani soldier and one Malaysian soldier got killed in the action.

The fallout from this engagement was far reaching as this '*incident*' forced the Clinton administration to totally withdraw American troops from Somalia. The book by Bowden is a result of inspecting and studying mountains of official reports, investigation snapshots and even transcripts of communications between combat troops and conducting hundreds of exhaustive interviews with the participants from both side; this adds to the level of detailing that is placed into the narrative and it's authenticity.

Black Hawk Down tells the realistic tale of this modern day infantry combat with such vigor and brutally shocking honesty. It also will give the reader insights into the local & international politics surrounding the events, which led to the engagement at Bakara Market and *how a supposed peacekeeping mission by UN in Somalia escalated into an armed conflict.*

If you have already seen the 'Black Hawk Down' movie, even then give this book a try and you will be amazed with the power of written words; as Bowden captures each and every moment of the engagement - happening in both air and ground - with such vividness. For me the book made a lot more powerful impact than the movie.

Jackson: i assumed this was once a compelling, good researched account of the conflict of Mogadishu. This account illustrates the private struggles, confusion, and total chaotic surroundings of the conflict far better than the motion picture did (big surprise, I know) and confirmed a number of gentle moments among the warriors because the struggle raged round them - my own favourite being after a medic patches up one of many men after which offers him a shot for the discomfort and a weapon to protect the casualty assortment aspect he's in tells

him anything akin to, oh, as your healthcare supplier it's my accountability to inform you that weapons and medicine do not mix. now not lacking from the booklet have been many information of the political fight surrounding the UN and US missions in Somalia prior to and after the conflict of the Black Sea in addition to extra post-battle details then the motion picture used to be in a position to share.

Zinger: This booklet informed the tale of the conflict of Mogadishu: 3-4 October 1993. so far as placing you up and shut in severe combat, this booklet did a very stable activity and should offer you Post-Traumatic rigidity Disorder. As city war (or extra frequently called: Peace preserving Operations or kingdom Building) turns into extra the norm for contemporary warfare, this e-book supplies a glimpse into that kind of combat. I trendy the courage, bravery, self sacrifice, and stamina of these carrier males that continued the sort of poor ordeal, and felt the loss and soreness from the demise and accidents that happened these men, or even these of the Somalians. Through the complete ebook the recommendation of George Washington in his Farewell deal with stored coming to my mind. "The nice rule of behavior for us in regard to international countries is in extending our advertisement relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible...Europe (or Africa) has a collection of fundamental pursuits which to us have none; or a really distant relation. accordingly she needs to be engaged in common controversies, the reasons of that are basically overseas to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it needs to be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by way of man made ties within the traditional vicissitudes of her politics, or the standard combos and collisions of her friendships or enmities." The US used to be there to aid with their politically synthetic famine, however the humans resented international troops policing their neighborhoods. To be honest, would not you act a similar means if UN or chinese language troops have been policing your local (minus the mutilations and dragging of enemy bodies). Our overseas coverage is a mess. After analyzing this book, I comprehend much more why Ron Paul had extra aid from army troops than the entire different presidential candidates.

Steve: I discover it truly is foolish to check a best-selling publication that is been made right into a motion picture and repackaged and reprinted a number of times, yet that is by no means stopped me before, so...As an army (and army history) reader, I supply no rational excuse for no longer having learn this ebook in the past (nor am i able to clarify why I by no means observed the movie). I be mindful reacting poorly to at least one or extra e-book reports I learn on the time, but, still, I must have learn it.... at the different hand, there has been a undeniable kismet in that, with out aspiring to do so, i began the e-book on a (business) journey to Africa and, indeed, learn it whereas flying over (and operating in) the state(s) that encompass Somalia. Having labored (albeit briefly) in a couple of African states, it is either unhappy and informative to examine one other step in Somalia's modern-era civil struggle and descent into its current, depressing, all-too-often possible hopelessly chaotic country (although, increasingly, Somalia is having fun with a few quantity of reconstruction and is now hopefully defined as a progressing, evolving "fragile state"). For non-military readers, crucial factor to understand is that the writer succeeds in providing a detailed, harrowing non-fiction account of a dramatic army disagreement that reads like best-selling, airport bookstall fiction. the writer did his homework, he interviewed some of the participants, and his entry to a wealth of uncooked information (including video and tape from the battle) results in a uniquely certain and orderly account of an differently chaotic sequence of events. But, whereas this is often history, the tale (and,

ultimately, the action) drives the train. Granted, I isn't stunned on that score, to the level that i actually loved the author's soccer (NFL history) book, the easiest video game Ever, and, indeed, I think of it one of many larger activities books i have read. Accordingly, I applaud the author's skill to ply his paintings throughout hugely divergent genres, and that i anticipate i'm going to prove analyzing extra of his work. For comparable reasons, I strongly suggest taking the time to learn the author's 2010 afterword - and, on reflection - i may see it serving both well, if now not better, as a ahead or preface. the writer makes transparent (what must have been seen to any reader) that the artwork of this booklet is the author's presentation and empowerment of the soldiers' (and the participants') voices, instead of his own. the writer performs no function within the story, and he is still invisible during the telling. He contrasts his method - with aid from critics (and/or what a few may well name literary snobs) - from generations of authors who decided that black humor, cynicism, and, implicitly, condescension and disregard for the army (generally) and infantrymen (individually and collectively) was once the most appropriate of warfare reporting. I applaud the writer for his constant and disciplined recognize in case you serve, with all in their human failings, fears, and, well, humanity. Nonetheless, or, maybe, ultimately, the tale (not the book) is immensely frustrating, because it graphically, painstakingly, and painfully, provides a quick anecdote of the fog of war, how political and management judgements impression the lives of soldiers, their households and, of course, people, communities, and states in another country ... and, of course, the following generation. For higher or worse, within the new Millennium, Iraq and Afghanistan have generated a wealth of comparable "new journalistic" debts of city warfare, small unit actions, and the particular event of squaddies (rather than dispassionate high-level reconstruction of grand battles). battle is messy, and the prices are high, and this e-book is a poignant reminder of both. In any event, i might upload this quantity to a turning out to be shelf of books that i might like to see highschool scholars uncovered to prior to they really input adulthood, vote, give some thought to army service, attend college, or shape their preliminary (yet not easy to change/inform) critiques concerning the nation's function within the world. There are loads of gamers within the drama, and Bowden presents an in depth index (for that and different reasons). As an oft-academic reader, i would for my part have hottest Bowden's fulsome finish notes as footnotes. in lots of cases, Bowden expands at size on particular occasions and recollections. Had those commentaries been on the backside of the web page while i used to be analyzing the proper passage, I anticipate i'd have spent considerably extra time with them. Bowden's exertions paid off in this one. I count on this one will remain on bookshelves for years to come....

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