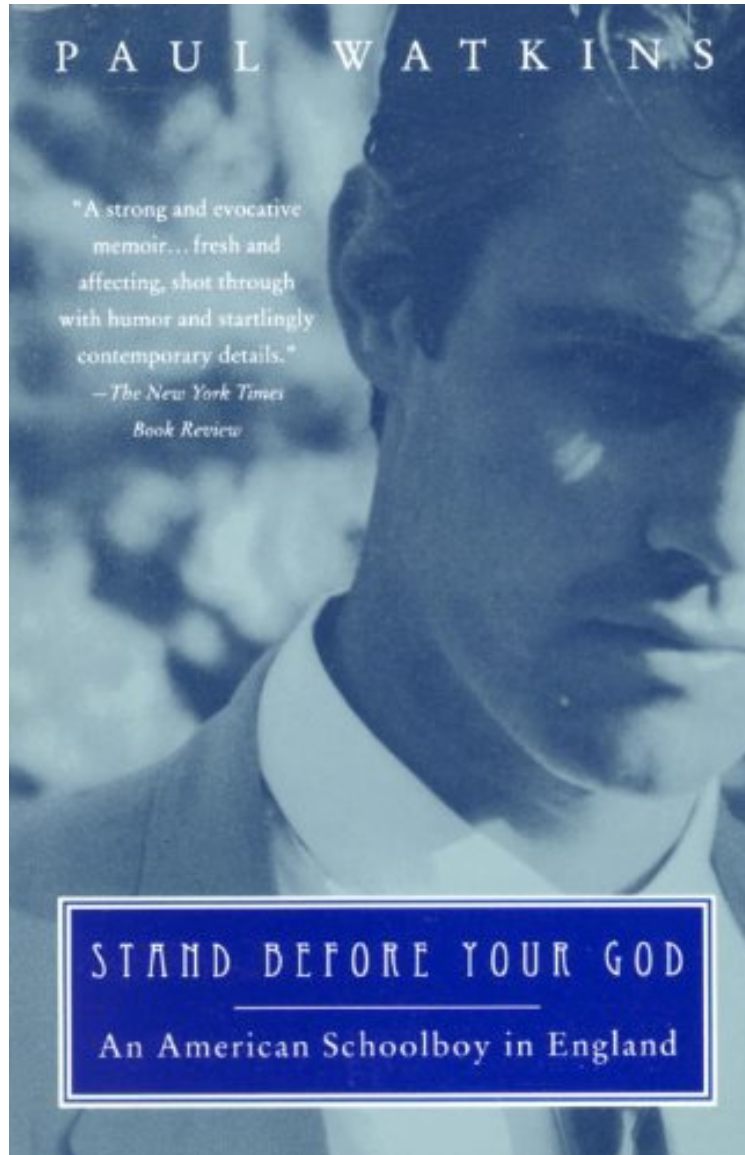


[Download] Stand Before Your God: An American Schoolboy in England

Stand Before Your God: An American Schoolboy in England

Von Paul Watkins

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Von Paul Watkins : Stand Before Your God: An American Schoolboy in England before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stand Before Your God: An American Schoolboy in England:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An unalloyed masterpiece!!!!Von JohnWbanjo@aol.comI have read few books in my eleven years as a bookseller that

have moved me as much as Paul Watkins' coming-of-age memoir. There are only three that I have read more than once: THE SECRET HISTORY, A SEPARATE PEACE (which I have read twice a year ever since high school), AND STAND BEFORE YOUR GOD. Watkins' ability to take everyday events and anxieties and turn them into the stuff of revelation is a rare gift. His writing is clear, incisive, and, in spite of the unusual circumstance of an American attending the most exclusive of British prep schools, universally telling. I read the book thinking of my numerous perusals of A SEPARATE PEACE and my own cherished memories of attending a small private college in the rural midwest. I read the book with a pen in hand, underlining his most illuminating thoughts about Eton, and writing "Yes! YES!!!!!" in the margins when his own epiphanies bespoke my own. I read the book wide-eyed, knowing that, alone in my living room, I was in the company of genius. I have recommended the book to many of my customers over the years, employing both of my most heartfelt evaluations: "Oh, but you MUST!" and "Trust me on this one!" They have, all, thanked me profusely for the recommendation. In this extraordinary collection of tales that make up a short time in a still remarkably short life, we find images of ourselves, and marvel that a stranger can know so much about us. Seek it out. Read it. Cherish it. Oh, but you must! Trust me on this one!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. an amazing, heart-rending and funny memoir
 Von Ein Kunde Paul Watkins is my favorite writer. I have read all of his books and while some are good, others are brilliant. Stand Before Your God is in the latter category. This memoir was one of the least pretentious and most moving of any I have ever read ("Mama's Girl" by Veronica Chambers is another). It is at times very funny (the gym-shoe scene) and very heart-rending (when his father is dying). Even though I am a 28-year-old American woman educated in a midwest public school system, I could identify with Watkins' desire to fit in and loneliness. It made me laugh and cry. What has always amazed me and moved me about Watkins is that he uses the most simple words to convey the deepest emotions and meanings. Few writers of his generation do that. They think bigger words are better but Watkins proves that less is often more. I had the pleasure to meet Paul at a reading for Archangel a few years ago. He was very shy and almost self-dreprecating, but very friendly. I hope that he writes for many years to come and that others will discover his writing and come to love it as much as I have.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Looking for a sleeper hit in paperback? This IS the one. Von Ein Kunde I'll admit, when a friend told me about this book and suggested that I pick it up, I was rather dubious about whether I would really enjoy a book about an American boy's youth in British boarding schools, but I was taken away with Paul Watkins' style AND stories. One aspect that at first annoyed me was that Watkins described his book as a memoir (even though he's thirty-ish), a term usually reserved for writings from someone important. But folks, a true memoir it is! Watkins' ability to recount and describe with clarity tales of his youth make this book not only entertaining, but circumspect as well. I found myself searching for the detail in my own memories of youth that Watkins was so easily recreating for his reader. It is a true find, and I guess as penance for not taking the recommendation seriously at first, I try to hail and applaud whenever possible. Read this book and you'll soon be searching the corners of your own mind for more

Kurzbeschreibung In this enthralling and sometimes harrowing memoir, the acclaimed author of The Promise of Light gives us a masterly companion to such classics as Brideshead Revisited and A Separate Peace. At the age of seven, Paul Watkins was roughly transplanted from his home in Rhode Island to England's Dragon School. He was greeted by a delegation of bullies who, in time, would become his friends and whose rules would become his own. For at Dragon, and later at Eton, "there was no middle ground. You could not go here and come out not caring one way or the other. You had to stand before your God and commit." Here are the masters who paddle boys for small infractions and then offer them sweets; the seniors who pamper pretty favorites and subject all others to humiliating servitude; the deep friendships and sudden, devastating betrayals. Above all, here is the exhilaration of a boy discovering own capacities for learning and creativity, in a book that conveys with astonishing insight the pangs of growing up.

Pressestimmen "The literature of school includes such classics as Tom Brown's School Days and Goodbye, Mr. Chips. No one has ever told it so well from the student's point of view as Paul Watkins." -- Denver Post "Strong and evocative. . . smoothly written. . . romantic." -- The New York Times Book

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