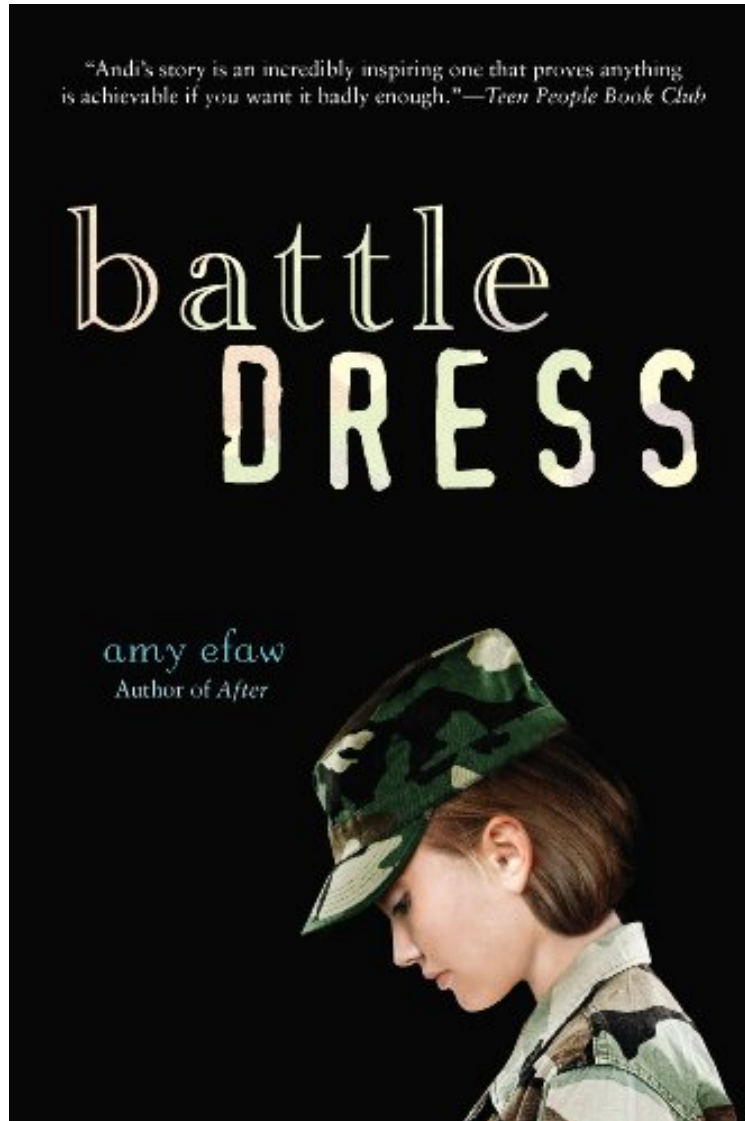


Battle Dress

Von Amy Efaw

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Von Amy Efaw : Battle Dress before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Battle Dress:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Motivational Book about PerseveranceVon Ein KundeThe setting of Battle Dress is West Point Military Academy, but the message I received from this first book written by Amy Efaw is: No matter what your life has been, it's up to you and your attitudes whether you make it or not. Never give up!I found Battle Dress to be both motivating and good

recreational reading, although I had to put the book down after the first two chapters because I was exhausted. Amy Efaw gives us a realistic and entertaining picture of a young woman's life at West Point without having to resort to filth and gore. "Andi Davis" leaves the disorder of her home and the insecurity of her childhood, and finds structure, identity, and acceptance at West Point. Efaw skillfully describes Andi's environment and experiences, her agonizing thoughts and fears, and her failures and triumphs. Andi doesn't always win, but then, neither do we. I cried with Andi, cheered for her, and laughed out loud. The program at West Point, as described by Efaw, would probably seem harsh to the average reader; but they're training men and women to be leaders in potentially dangerous circumstances, where a careless mistake could cost lives. Since reading *Battle Dress*, I have a new respect for the Academy and its graduates. West Point may be the place where "striving for excellence" was invented. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent Portrayal of an Overcomer Von Ein Kunde I was fascinated by the ins and outs of a world completely foreign to me--that of a military academy, and the disciplines necessary to survive such a place. Ms. Efaw well portrays the struggles a young woman may expect when "playing with the big boys" in a military setting, but never stoops to the male-bashing that usually would take place in such a book. Protagonist Andi Davis, having already mastered some basic survival skills by growing up in a dysfunctional family, quickly discovers that West Point, rather than being a haven, will push her further than she has ever been pushed. Along the way she realizes that the seeming abuse and rigid structure of West Point is designed to strip away her misconceived notions of self and her emotional baggage; it only remains for her to overcome her internal fears and build herself back up--but not as the same person she was before. Readers will be pulling for Andi as she sheds her negative self-image by earning the respect of her squad mates. The issues of acceptance and self-worth that Efaw deals with are touchstones with any teen, not just one considering a military career. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Inspiring story of a Young Woman Reaching Her Goal Von Ein Kunde Inspiring story of the challenges a young woman faces while starting her military career at West Point. This book gave me great insight into West Point - I have had friends and distant relatives who have went there, and I've always wanted to have a first hand account of what it's like to go there. In addition, this book re-affirms that, as with most things in life, one's true "enemies" are not external things such as your family, job, circumstance, and in this case, the military tradition at West Point, but rather one's own self, with whom one must battle to accomplish one's goals. Andi Davis indeed possesses the strength, courage, and will to not become discouraged and accomplish her goals. By writing this story, the author inspires the reader to realize his or her own dreams and work towards them and (in the words of Andi's platoon motto) "Never Surrender!"!

Kurzbeschreibung Based on the author's own experiences as a cadet at the exclusive United States Military Academy at West Point, *Battle Dress* is the brutally honest tale of seventeen-year-old Andi Davis, who views her acceptance at West Point as a chance to escape her dysfunctional family and prove to herself that she has what it takes to survive *The Beast*, insider terminology for Basic Training. But nothing could have prepared Andi for the rigors that follow or for the inner strength that she will need to succeed as a woman in a nearly all-male society. Compelling and powerful, but never militaristic, this is a tale of triumph that won't fail to move readers. From Publishers Weekly In this insider account of a female cadet's first summer at West Point, readers are given a potent dose of military life. Andi Davis is eager to escape her unstable family when she enrolls at "Woo Poo U," but she is not prepared to be humiliated and bombarded with confusing commands during the first few days of "Beast," the six weeks of basic training. As she is alternately whipped into shape (Will she ever master regulation push-ups?) and methodically stripped of her civilian habits (not to mention her \$65 perm and her unauthorized deck shoes), she is plagued by self-doubt; the taunts of the upperclassmen echo the verbal abuse dished out by her mother. And as one of only two females in the platoon, Andi is determined not to be the "weak link." First-novelist Efaw, a graduate of West Point, does not question the grueling training tactics, much less the philosophies girding a military academy. She focuses squarely on Andi's personal struggle to conform to rigid, exacting standards. The dialogue is strong. The upperclassmen's insults, the new cadets' awkward responses and private conversations create a thick, believable atmosphere. Even readers who disagree with Andi's values will be pulling for her. Ages 12-up. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up-Andrea Davis accepts an appointment to West Point, knowing its reputation for strenuous training but believing it can't be any worse than surviving her abusive mother, her silent father, and constant family fights. Andi believes her dysfunctional family has prepared her to meet all challenges. The story chronicles "Beast," the aptly nicknamed new-cadet program, from a female plebe's perspective. Nothing is left out, from arrival blitz through grueling physical training, "square" meals and lack of sleep, military science, and the daily regimen of marching and torment from upper-class cadets. Team building is always the training focus. Andrea confronts stereotypes and negative attitudes toward women in the military, fights her own fear of failure, and pushes herself to prove her abilities and worth. Based on Efaw's experiences, the novel provides insights into long-held traditions at a mostly unfamiliar, formerly male-dominated institution. Intense depictions of pain and the mental and physical near atrocities plebes suffer make this compelling, at times stomach-turning, reading. Gail Richmond, San Diego Unified

