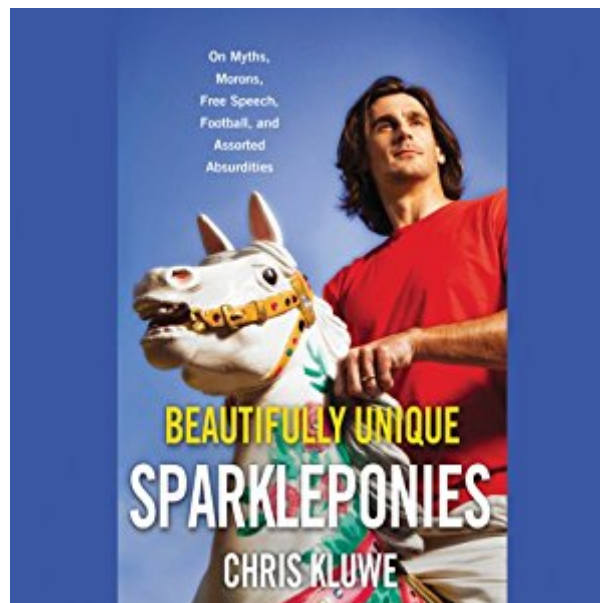




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Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies: On Myths, Morons, Free Speech, Football, And Assorted Absurdities



Synopsis

"Hi. In your hands, right now, you hold the culmination of thousands of years of human intelligence, ingenuity, and brilliance. Now put your goddamn phone down and pay attention to my book. "What is in my book, you ask? (I'm really glad you asked, by the way, because now I get to tell you.) "Time travel. Gay marriage. Sportsballing. Futuristic goggles that DO NOTHING. "Tiny brags from my publisher, stuff like: 'This is an uproarious, uncensored take on empathy, personal responsibility, and what it means to be human.' "Excessive brags about myself: 'An extraordinarily clever, punishingly funny, sharp-tongued blogosphere star, NFL player, husband and father, one-time violin prodigy, voracious lifetime reader, obsessive gamer, and fearless champion of personal freedom.' "Oh, and also an essay on the Pope's Twitter account. Honestly, if that doesn't draw you in, there's no hope left for humanity. I also give my own funeral eulogy, in case you were hoping I'd go away and die now! "So please, join me in the glorious art of windmill tilting by reading this 'collection of rousing, uncensored personal essays, letters, and stories' (I have no idea why that's in quotes). "Join the herd of Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies. "(You know you want to.)"

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have to admit, I was skeptical. I loved following Chris' boisterous antics and "free-speech-athon" over the last few years, especially as he became one of the few advocates of marriage equality in ACTIVE professional sports - but in the back of my mind I wondered whether he could coherently bring together that sense of brash honesty in something longer than a blog entry. He brought it. Spectacularly. His book, Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies: On Myths, Morons, Free Speech,

Football, and Assorted Absurdities (of which he covers ALL of that and more) is a joy to read. delivered this book today and I chewed thru it like a lineman at a bar-b-que. So eager was I to finish the book that, to its credit, I did not give it the amount of thought and attention it deserves. That will come upon my second reading. Kluwe is both vicious in his take down of a multitude of issues and, surprisingly, sympathetic. Who else could both EVISCERATE a fellow player's "SEE SPOT RUN" mentality and compliment him on the observation that he can 'write pretty well'? The shame (if there is any to be had) is that the very people who SHOULD read this book probably won't go near it. Those are the same "morons" that Kluwe alludes to in the title and then summarily chews up and spits out thru-out the book in unabashed logic. The same ones (are you reading this Archbishop Nienstedt?) that feel that their unabiding and limitless faith can not seem to encompass the very tenants upon which they are based (compassion and love), let alone a universe in which science, biology, and human instinct hold true. If SparklePonies in anyway sends a message, its that Chris Kluwe and his opinions are not going away anytime soon, nor are mine, nor are yours and that the best love letter you can send to humanity is one that is true, compassionate, and cuts thru the B.S. like a laser.

I wanted to like this book. Kluwe seems like an intelligent guy. But I just couldn't get through this. Something about his writing style put me off. Maybe, at the bottom of it, I just don't care enough about football as a sport or social construct to read a book like this.

I was fortunate enough to get the chance to hear Chris Kluwe speak at a local community college last month and this book is like the written version of his talk that night. He was asked about everything from football to politics to video games to music that little old ladies would like to the nature of dualism to curing depression. He fielded (!) all of those questions masterfully so when he mentioned he had a book coming out I knew I had to get it. Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies is a fascinating, rambling, incredibly smart read. I first heard Chris Kluwe's name in reference to the marriage equality debate (one of my hot button issues) and when I read his letter to Emmett C. Burns Jr. Many people responded more to some of the words Kluwe used than the overarching point of his letter, and Kluwe addresses that in this book. The swearing is there for a reason. What Emmett C. Burns Jr. wrote, what I responded to, was far more disgusting and foul-minded than any simple scatological reference or genital mash-up. His words degraded the very essence of the English language with their barely hidden venom and intolerant hate; drag it screaming into the muck of iniquity by

wrapping a mantle of seeming reasonableness around corruption and control; masquerade as discourse while screaming their very lies to any heaven to any heaven you care to name. I could go on. My words? My words are a litmus test for those who would see the truth of a message rather than the package it's delivered in.

Chris Kluwe is crazy smart. He is creative, articulate, thinks fast on his feet and has a core of beliefs that shine through everything he says. He also writes beautifully. In the section entitled "The Rush" his description of the process and experience of his day job is very evocative, reading almost like poetry.

as my left foot locks into the ground and all the muscles on my right lower side contract and then explode up through an expelled grunt of air, left arm fully outstretched to the sky, eyes never leaving the gold Wilson engraved on the side, though they're not quick enough to actually see the moment of impact, and now I'm following through and time returns to normal again, an eternity of 1.2 seconds later.

And when he talks about the sensation of reading a great book it's like he was pulling those thoughts and feelings straight from my own head. "The pure luxuriousness of reading a book in comfort is one of the greatest sensations in the world (sex is better, but only by a little bit). Curling up on an engulfing couch as snow drifts down outside, toes hidden beneath warm blankets; lying sideways on a cushioned chaise while cool sea breezes gently stir the sunny afternoon air; hiding under the covers with a flashlight while rain beats down outside, all of these anchored by a collection of thoughts and ideas bound together, alone in whatever world the author created. Such hedonistic delight in contemplation of the immaterial, the intangible. File under Satisfaction with Universe.

I think the section that had the greatest impact on me (because this is another of my hot button issues) is "Bang Bang" the essay he wrote on the day of Newtown. As a person, as a mother, that day was horrific for me. I couldn't stop crying for those children, for those parents and for the certainty that even though these were schoolchildren that were murdered, the NRA would not allow one single solitary thing to change in our country and if they possibly could they would make things even worse so that they could sell more guns and ensure more people would die. Kluwe, however, expresses his feelings of that day in bold and with many caps. He is angry, rightly so, as he maps out exactly what the gun fanatics would think and do after one of the darkest days in our country's history. His letter to those who worship guns over human life is one of the most powerful I've ever read.

Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies is a book that made me think and laugh and learn. I loved reading it and I look forward to more books (and letters!) from Chris Kluwe.

I am a Viking fan and, as a result, read many articles about Chris and his vocal support for marriage equality. Along with being a world-class athlete (even if he is a punter), he writes persuasively and coherently about his numerous interests (some outside football - especially politics). He is a modern day "Renaissance Man." The book is funny - but at times preachy. Like Vonnegut's work (Chris is a fan), the book is sprinkled with occasional chapters on science fiction, philosophy and song writing to keep it all interesting and fresh. I especially liked his chapter where he writes about "his hero" (go read it to find out for yourself - I ain't giving that one away). The cursing and sexual references may give pause to more conservative readers - but it is nothing beyond Vonnegut or many contemporary writers.....but don't buy this book for your 12 year old NFL Raider/Viking fan. Based upon this book, Mr Kluwe has a bright future after the NFL. I hope to read more of his work in the future (when he writes it) and I hope he keeps it as entertaining and accessible as Sparkleponies. Maybe the great American novel is in his future. Chris appears to succeed in anything he tries to do - why should such a novel be any different?

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