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Blast From The Past

Von Ben Elton
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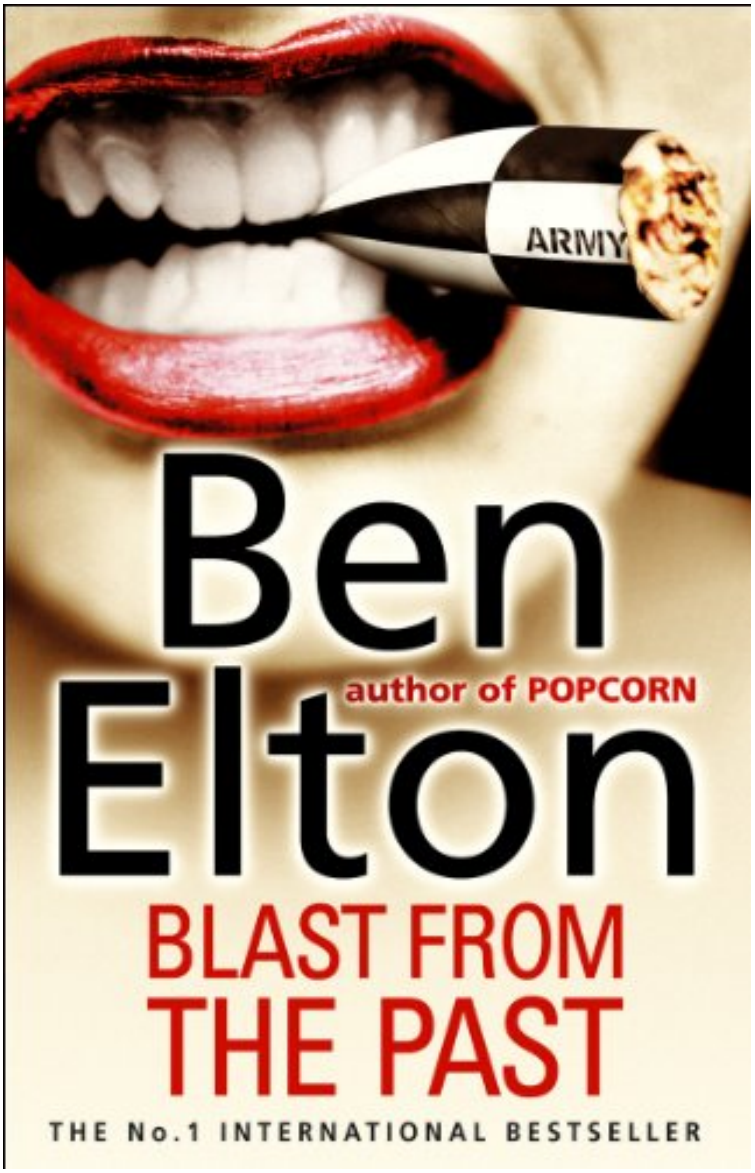

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Von Ben Elton : Blast From The Past before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blast From The Past:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Elton has tried, and failed, to write a semi-serious book.Von Ein KundeWhy oh why?I absolutely loved Elton's first three novels (Stark, Gridlock and This Other Eden) which were topical, political and most importantly the funniest books I have read. In Blast from the past, however, Elton dumps his usual extreme-and-action-packed-plot-intertwined-with-

hilarious-comedic-observations style in favour of a more sombre look at love and politics.Unfortunately, Elton is not good at it. His 'subtle as a steamroller' tone worked well in his first three novels where character development needed to be sacrificed to comedy, but in a book that focuses on two central characters, it falls flat.And in a book that is meant to be little less extreme than its predecessors, the dialogue is simply implausible. After all, if a lover who disappeared 16 years previously turned up at 3 in the morning, would you spend the first hour of your reunion discussing Thatcherite politics?Even the characters themselves are tired and unoriginal. In all of Elton's books there has been an attractive left-wing woman who has it in for a right-wing male a**hole. Blast from the Past continues this tired tradition and makes you wonder if Elton is good at anything else.And while this book does have it's funny moments (the first chapter for example), they are few and far between and do not justify the boring political banter and teen lovers angst that fills the rest of the book.Elton, stick with what you do best: comedy!2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A good lighthearted readVon Neil BostockI am glad this is only the second Ben Elton book I have read, the first being Popcorn, because then I cannot compare it unfavorably with earlier, supposedly funnier books. Purely on its own terms I though "Blast" was excellent; well written, humorous, tightly-plotted, perceptive, and heart-warming at the end. It was well balanced between witty cultural criticism and good romantic storytelling. As a Brit who has lived in the USA for 20 years maybe I can appreciate sentiment a bit more than my cynical countrymen. But this is no soppy tale. There are a few deaths, allusions to the follies of both the US and UK, and, in my opinion, good dialogue. I thought it was a better book than Popcorn, which often tried too hard for its humour, the "sea of cleavage" passage being an example. I understand Elton used to write for the infantile show "The Young Ones." I think he's improved a lot, based on the evidence of this most enjoyable book.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. DisappointingVon M. PackhamBen Elton's commentary on gender politics is a mildly compelling, though ultimately disappointing attempt at amalgamating poignant contemporary issues with an edge-of-the-seat thriller. His characters are so unbelievable, making their dialogue even more so, which is a problem because the entire book is fueled by what the two protagonists say to each other. What results is a less-than-intriguing, muddled social commentary that lacks the usual verve of previous Elton novels. He's off the mark this time.The premise of the book is the reuniting of two ex-lovers: one, a straight-edged military general; the other, a female British ex-activist. When the general turns up on his old fling's doorstep at 2am, all sorts of complications ensue. The pace of the book slows down thereafter because Elton delves into the rather extensive (and rather boring) history of the two characters. Eventually, their history is covered and their present situation meets them head on, resulting in a truncated, unsatisfying denouement.Elton isn't his usual best in Blast From the Past. If you're looking for vintage Elton, try the classic Stark, as well as Gridlock or This Other Eden. There you'll find rollicking, hilarious, action-packed plots with way out characters that, strangely enough, seem more believable than BFTP's, in which Elton attempted to make them as real as possible. Social commentary? More like unbelievable nonsense.

KurzbeschreibungIt's two fifteen a.m., you're in bed alone and you're woken by the phone.Your eyes are wide and your body tense before it has completed so much as a single ring. And as you wake, in the tiny moment between sleep and consciousness, you know already that something is wrong.Only someone bad would call at such an hour. Or someone good, but with bad news, which would probably be worse.You lie there in the darkness and wait for the answer machine to kick in. Your own voice sounds strange as it tells you that nobody is there but that a message can be left.You feel your heart beat. You listen. And then you hear the one voice in the world you least expect . . . your very own Blast From the Past..deIt's 2.15 a.m. and the phone wakes you. Only someone bad would ring you at such an hour, or someone with bad news, which would probably be worse. You hear the answer-machine kick in and feel your heart beat. You listen. And then you hear the voice you least expect - a blast from the past." Blast From The Past is the fifth novel from Ben Elton, the celebrated and controversial comedian/playwright/author whose TV credits include The Young Ones and Blackadder as well as the previous novels Stark and Popcorn. Jack Kent, US Captain stationed at Greenham Common during the early eighties, has a secret and unlikely affair with the Polly Sacred Cycle of the Womb and Moon, a 17-year-old ideological peace protester: the star-crossed lovers made Romeo and Juliet look like an arranged marriage! Pamela Anderson and the Ayatollah Khomeni would have made a more natural-looking couple. Sixteen years later and a four star General, Kent returns to Britain to seek out his only true love. Polly, now a lonely thirtysomething Equal Opportunities employee, is being stalked by the Bug when the phone rings. Set in the staid, politically-correct nineties of New Labour Britain, the story flashes back with comic effect to the early eighties, a time of protest, strikes and Cold War. While hardcore Elton fans might be disappointed with the weak plot and smaller helpings of piercing wit and wacky socio-political observations, Blast from the Past still offers up some laugh-out-loud lines and entertaining reading. --Andrew CrawfordFrom BooklistJack, a thirtysomething U.S. Army captain, spends a memorable summer in England in the early 1980s making love to Polly, a 17-year-old English girl, despite the fact that each despises the others' politics and worldview. But Jack knows an affair with a teenager who keeps getting arrested for protesting U.S. nukes in England will nuke his career, and after a last passionate session, he simply

disappears. Sixteen years later, he steps back into Polly's life, which is a shambles. On the eve of Jack's ascendance to the post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Polly is alone in a shabby apartment, trapped in a humdrum social-services job, and being stalked by one of her clients. Jack's arrival spurs hope, passion, and fury in Polly. Elton's ironic, sardonic narrative style is perfect for the wicked satire of ideological debates between lovers on opposite lunatic fringes of the political spectrum. But he's less effective in evoking Polly's gnawing fear of the stalker. All in all, a memorable if somewhat flawed novel. Thomas Gaughan