



Basic Training: A Novella

By Kurt Vonnegut

Audible Studios on Brilliance, United States, 2015. CD-Audio. Book Condition: New. Unabridged. 142 x 127 mm. Language: English . Brand New. Written to be sold under the pseudonym of Mark Harvey, this 20,000-word novella was never published in Vonnegut's lifetime. It appears (from the address on the manuscript, a suburb of Schenectady, New York, and from the style and slant) to have been written in the late 1940s. Vonnegut was working at that time in public relations for General Electric and used pseudonyms to protect himself from the charge of moonlighting. He was trying to sell to the so-called slick magazines of the time, like The Saturday Evening Post and Collier's, while resisting the lure of science fiction a tension throughout his professional career. Basic Training is a bitter, profoundly disenchanted story that satirizes the military, authoritarianism, gender relationships, parenthood, and most of the assumed mid-century myths of the family. Haley Brandon, the adolescent protagonist, comes to the farm of his relative, the old crazy who insists upon being called The General, to learn to be a straight-shooting American. Haley's only means of survival will lead him to unflagging defiance of the General's deranged (but oh...



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