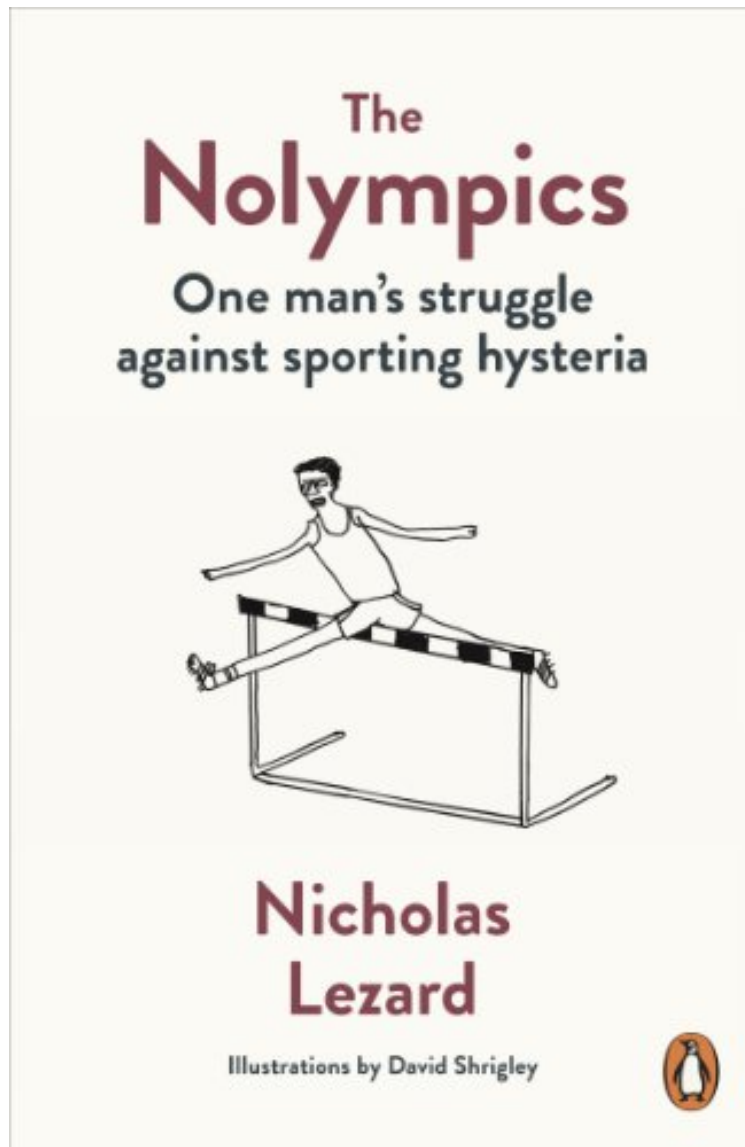


(Library ebook) The Nolympics: One Man's Struggle Against Sporting Hysteria

# The Nolympics: One Man's Struggle Against Sporting Hysteria

*Nicholas Lezard*

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**Nicholas Lezard : The Nolympics: One Man's Struggle Against Sporting Hysteria** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nolympics: One Man's Struggle Against Sporting Hysteria:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One Man's view as to why the Olympics is rubbish. By Tommy Dooley This is a short illustrated book from journalist Nicholas Lezard. He was commissioned to write an antidote to the 'sporting hysteria' that was engendered in London during the Olympics. Actually it was the whole bleedin country.

I was one of those that helped make the games by sorting out a few background gaffs that could have been a bit of a problem. I too am not a fan so was looking forward to this book as I had to work in London throughout the summer of madness. Lezard takes us on a day by day account of what turns out to be mostly his watching of the games on his television. He has a very erudite writing style and is a lover of the English language as indeed am I. So he uses what some people refer to as 'not plain English' or as others might say 'big words' - and well done him for that. The humour is that of a satirist but also an unwilling participant who strives to find meaning and point to the whole thing, I totally agree with the pointlessness of discus, synchronised swimming and that pommel horse thing. He does spend a lot of time on the equestrian stuff especially the 'horsey dancing' and does actually attend a couple of events one of which was ladies épée; which I always think is short hand for a mental fit. But as mentioned a lot of the observations are directly from the old telly and or newspapers etc, with comment and critique of the same. This was billed as hilarious and I think that was wrongly placed, it is amusing, it is well written it is well observed and for all the anti Olympic curmudgeonry he does try to be balanced. I saw how happy some of the people who attended and helped were because of their involvement and it was genuinely touching. So there was a point to it all, but I still think it cost way too much and would have been a lot happier if not every single programme; news item, advert and even mode of transport had not been so gaudily trying to latch onto an Olympic theme just to be associated with the whole show. Still it is the sort of book that you can dip into and as its not exactly 'War and Peace' I read in a couple of sittings and found it most agreeable, but it was never meant to be great literature, so I think overall 3.5 stars but am awarding 3 for sake of rounding down - if you want any more reasons to not like the Olympics or even sport then this may give you a few pointers.

Nicholas Lezard loved London. Then the London 2012 Olympics came along. . . Suddenly his beloved city was invaded by über-people in branded sportswear who had contorted their bodies into odd shapes in order to run a bit faster, or throw things a bit further. Not to mention armies of reptilian brand-managers, chancers, and corporate cheerleaders all wanting to cash in, as a blameless piece of the East End was turned (at tear-inducing cost) into one huge folly. In *The Nolympics*, Nicholas Lezard gives us the perfect antidote to Olympics fever with a hilarious blow-by-blow account of how he survived its highs and lows, triumphs, and soul-destroying boredom. It is a book for anyone who would rather sit in the dark watching TV than ever wave a flag, who was last to be picked for PE, or who just feels that somewhere along the way the Spirit of the Games was smothered by wads of money. It is the only Olympic souvenir you'll ever need.

About the Author Nicholas Lezard writes for the Guardian, Independent, and New Statesman.