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Hawk: Occupation: Skateboarder (Skate My Friend, Skate)



Synopsis

For Tony Hawk, it wasn't enough to skate for two decades, to invent more than eighty tricks, and to win more than twice as many professional contests as any other skater. It wasn't enough to knock himself unconscious more than ten times, fracture several ribs, break his elbow, knock out his teeth twice, compress the vertebrae in his back, pop his bursa sack, get more than fifty stitches laced into his shins, rip apart the cartilage in his knee, bruise his tailbone, sprain his ankles, and tear his ligaments too many times to count. No. He had to land the 900. And after thirteen years of failed attempts, he nailed it. It had never been done before. Growing up in Sierra Mesa, California, Tony was a hyperactive demon child with an IQ of 144. He threw tantrums, terrorized the nanny until she quit, exploded with rage whenever he lost a game; this was a kid who was expelled from preschool. When his brother, Steve, gave him a blue plastic hand-me-down skateboard and his father built a skate ramp in the driveway, Tony finally found his outlet--while skating, he could be as hard on himself as he was on everyone around him. But it wasn't an easy ride to the top of the skating game. Fellow skaters mocked his skating style and dubbed him a circus skater. He was so skinny he had to wear elbow pads on his knees, and so light he had to ollie just to catch air off a ramp. He was so desperate to be accepted by young skating legends like Steve Caballero, Mike McGill, and Christian Hosoi that he ate gum from between Steve's toes. But a few years of determination and hard work paid off in multiple professional wins, and the skaters who once had mocked him were now trying to learn his tricks. Tony had created a new style of skating. In Hawk Tony goes behind the scenes of competitions, demos, and movies and shares the less glamorous demands of being a skateboarder--from skating on Italian TV wearing see-through plastic shorts to doing a demo in Brazil after throwing up for five days straight from food poisoning. He's dealt with teammates who lit themselves and other subjects on fire, driving down a freeway as the dashboard of their van burned. He's gone through the unpredictable ride of the skateboard industry during which, in the span of a few years, his annual income shrank to what he had made in a single month and then rebounded into seven figures. But Tony's greatest difficulty was dealing with the loss of his number one fan and supporter--his dad, Frank Hawk. With brutal honesty, Tony recalls the stories of love, loss, bad hairdos, embarrassing '80s clothes, and his determination that had shaped his life. As he takes a look back at his experiences with the skateboarding legends of the '70s, '80s, and '90s, including Stacy Peralta, Eddie Elguera, Lance Mountain, Mark Gonzalez, Bob Burnquist, and Colin McKay, he tells the real history of skateboarding--and also what the future has in store for the sport and for him.

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Customer Reviews

I read this book all the time in middle school (I'm in college now) and it really helped get me by through the rough times and imagined my life like Hawk's through this wonderful book. It's friendly for all ages and has truth, no sugar coating stories. After years of tracking down this, I'm glad I finally get to say I own a copy instead of continuously renting from my local library like I have for so long. Couldn't recommend this enough.

I've always been a fan of Tony Hawk, I first heard of him back in the 80s and I've been a keen follower of his career ever since. This book is well written with some good laughs and gives an insight into Tony's ups and downs throughout his career. When most people think of Tony Hawk they automatically think he had an easy run to where he is, this book will show you just how much hard work he put in (which he still does today) and the adversity he overcame to become the legend he now is. Totally inspired me to get back on my board a lot more regularly. Tony teaches us that age is no barrier to skating, it just takes a bit longer to get back up.

I am a fat forty-year-old ex-skater now, but I loved reading Tony's book and getting some insight as

to what was going on during the years when he was idolized for his insane abilities. Being from the East Coast the only thing we ever saw Tony in was the Bones Brigade videos back in the '80s and his scenes always blew everyone's minds. It was cool to read his thoughts during those times and see what he was going through. He was always a good ambassador for skating and it is nice to see him doing well in his post-skating career. Get the book, read it.

Been a tony hawk fan since the late 90's. I really enjoyed this book. A must read for any skater. Didn't discover how big "The 900" was till i read this book after i saw it on TV on the X games. He even tells the story about the 9.

This book to me, gives you an inside look at one of the heroes of my childhood. Whether you're currently a skateboarder, or not. This book goes through the life of Tony Hawk who is a name I'm sure we've all heard of at some point in our life. I'd recommend this book to any kid in school who is looking for somebody to write a report about or to anyone who might be interested in knowing what happened behind the scenes in Tony Hawk's life.

Good read if you're into this stuff.

good book.

An excellent book. Well written and full of entertaining insight into the unique world of this skateboard superstar!

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