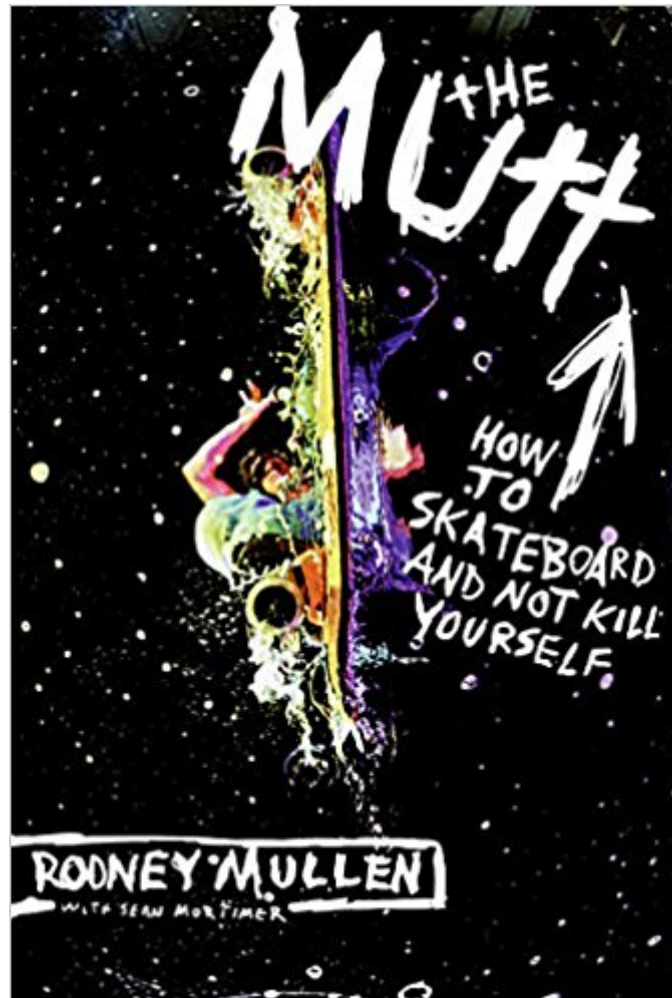




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The Mutt: How To Skateboard And Not Kill Yourself



Synopsis

The world's champion freestyle skateboarder and the man who brought the ollie to the trick that revolutionised the sport by taking it from the ground to the air to street skating shares the history of skateboarding, as he tells the dramatic story of his life. At the age of 13, Rodney took the freestyle skating world by storm. He won 35 world titles in less than five years. But through it all, his father looked down on his son's love for skating and pressured him to walk away from the sport and leave behind his fans and status as the most famous skateboarder of his era. After years of stress and conflict, Rodney gave in and promised his father he'd quit for good. But by the time he finally broke free from his suffocating and abusive home life, the popularity of freestyle had waned and given way to vert and street styles. So Rodney picked up his board and started from scratch. With the help of mentor Mike Ternansky, Rodney used his freestyle background to usher in a whole new era of street skating. Today Rodney is more popular than ever. The videos in his series Rodney Versus Daewon are among the most popular skateboard videos ever produced. He won the 2002 Transworld Skateboarding readers' choice award for favourite street skater and is the most popular character on the top-selling Tony Hawk's Pro Skater video games.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rodney Mullen is a former freestyle world champion with the best contest record in professional skating. He's credited with laying the foundation for street skating and was voted the 2002

Skater of the Year. And he hates horses. He lives in Los Angeles, California, with his wife. Sean Mortimer was the editor of Skate -- boarder magazine and coauthored Hawk: Occupation: Skateboarder with Tony Hawk. He lives in Oceanside, California, with his wife and son.

a solid well done read. love Mullen's honesty. i didn't know the depths of his life experiences. he's a highly sensitive, intuitive person. it's nice to get into the minds of one of my heroes. seems like one cool cat! thank you Mullen, skating in the 80s&90s and watching your videos, not only shaped my life, but enriched my experience 100 fold!

I haven't even finished this book yet and am enjoying it so much I wanted to write a review. This book is NOT just for skaters, and Rodney Mullen is inspiring on so many levels. Each line contains its own brilliance, much like Rodney's essence that shines through in this well written biography. He is one of the few that not only speaks from his heart, but is a living example of it, and this book has done nothing except make mine smile so far and laugh more than once. This book is a wonderful find.

I was drawn to this book after seeing Rodney's interviews on Stacy Peralta's film, "Bones Brigade." His ability to speak in complete paragraphs with well crafted phrases explaining complicated concepts clearly caught my attention, and the passion the he conveyed brought me to tears. I was delighted to find he'd written an autobiography, and purchased a copy immediately. His story of perseverance against all opposition, fueled by his love for skate boarding, was bittersweet and inspiring. With the help of his ghostwriter the narrative was seamless. I knew very little about the development of professional skateboarding, and this book provided a window into a world I would not otherwise have experienced.

I'm not much of a skateboarder but a child of the 80's. Rodney Mullen is a very interesting person and groundbreaking skateboarder. This book is about life more than skateboarding but that's what makes it great. I was impressed by how candid he was because he is quite an introverted person. He delves into all of his life's trials and tribulations with total honesty. A lot can be learned from this book. Great for anyone struggling through life as Rodney shows us how you can pick yourself back up from anything and accomplish great things, not just win trophies and chase success. Thanks for sharing Rodney!

I got this book, because of my interest in skateboarding. I am still to this day fascinated with all things Steve Rocco (big brother/jackass), early 90's skateboarding, Skateboard art, and skateboard history. I knew most of the skateboard industry stories but these were told through Mullen perspective. I had low expectations on this book, because that I already knew alot of the subject matter. Once I started reading I read up to chapter 5. I put it down but couldn't stop thinking about it. Mowed the lawn, went skateboarding for an hour, came back home picked the book up again. I can tell you it is an easy read, but i was so enthralled about his passion. I related to how he saw his skateboard. I often think that I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for my skateboard. I was put to tears when reading about his mom. I never actually cried when reading, but the chapters leading up to his mom's death had hit me so hard, i couldn't even breath. I look up at the clock went I finished reading and it was 2 in the morning. I read the whole book with in a day, and can't wait to re-read it. Just a note, I rarely ever read a book cover to cover in one day. Great book.

"The Mutt: How to Skateboard and Not Kill Yourself," by Rodney Mullen, is an honest, raw look into the life of one of skateboarding's patron figures and into the sport itself. Let me just say that if you don't know who Rodney Mullen is, just go to Google or YouTube and search his name. He is one of the most innovative pioneers of modern skateboarding. He's been skating professionally since the late 70's as a freestyler and many of the tricks he invented led to what modern street skaters are doing today. He continues to invent new tricks with his style of skating that is truly unique, a blend of technical and street style. This book is his autobiography, a story which reveals so much more about the man who is responsible for more of modern skateboarding's development than most pro skaters involved in the sport today. It's also a very inspiring story about Mullen's own personal challenges with family, personality disorders and many challenges that helped to shape him into the man he became. It was not long into reading that Rodney reveals himself to be the very intelligent but socially awkward person that initially led him to the skateboard culture as a kid. We also see how his character is shaped by the influence of a very driven and structurally rigid father who pushes him to excel in life to the point of eventually mandating Rodney's retirement from professional skateboarding at age 16 because he decides it's taking over too much of Rodney's life and doesn't hold a future for him. We read as Rodney learns how to cope with these and many other challenges and eventually becomes a multimillionaire through co-founding one of the most successful skateboard companies of the 90's and continues to cast an influence over the skateboarding industry well into the new millennium, a full 30 years after he first stepped foot on a skateboard. "The Mutt" is a casual read and took me only three and a half weeks to complete, compared with a book

of similar size that took me more than three months to finish before reading this one. Rodney clearly has the writing style of an analytical thinker, recounting vivid details of his life in a meaningful story telling fashion. At time I could barely put it down without reading three to four chapters at once. As a high school teenager I remember being introduced to Rodney Mullen via pictures in skateboarding magazines. I'll never forget that one of my favorite skateboarding videos was the Rodney Mullen vs. Daewon Song video in late 90's. It was really exciting to dig back into so many memories of my own past as I read about someone who influenced my growing up in a small way. After reading his story, it became clear that his influence was actually not as small as I thought. Particularly encouraging about this book is the way Mullen describes the learning process he's gone through in life with regard to dealing with problems, or more specifically learning to deal with them. I know that many young people in the skateboarding community use their sport as an outlet. While outlets can certainly be positive, they often serve instead as a way of not dealing with life problems. In this book Rodney shows how he had actually exhibited that same pattern, but over time began to learn how to deal with the many issues in his life rather than just avoiding them through skating. I would very much recommend this book to anybody who's been involved with skateboarding in their lifetime as you will certainly appreciate the story of Rodney Mullen. I'd also recommend this as a good read for people who simply appreciate seeing how others resolve many of life's common struggles. You won't be able to put it down quickly.

This book isn't nearly as much about skateboarding as you might think. Sure, it has a lot of skateboarding in it, but what the book is really about is the emotional turmoil of being brilliant, innovative, sensitive, and making original contributions to a subject which is on the outside fringes of social acceptance. It's one of the best books I've ever read and certainly the best autobiography. Above all else I found it motivational and inspirational. Thanks Rodney Mullen (and Sean Mortimer). PS: The subtitle is brilliant.

Great Bio

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