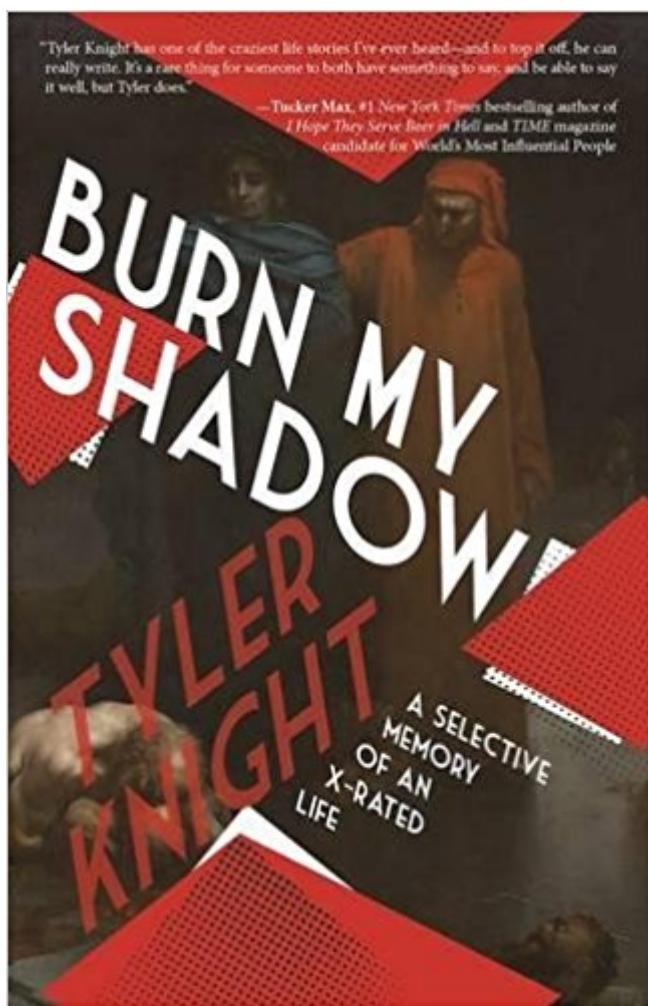


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Burn My Shadow: A Selective Memory Of An X-Rated Life



Synopsis

Burn My Shadow follows the porn career of Tyler Knight, a black porn star who stars mainly in porn for couples. A star that breaks all stereotypes and barriers, Knight's story is one of race and sexuality that pushes the boundaries of what is thought of porn and porn stars. Tyler Knight is a one of a kind star, and this is his story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...what shines most in this memoir is the sincerity with which Knight delivers these sometimes appalling, always eye-opening glimpses into an industry that many of us will probably never get a firsthand look into." — The Rumpus "Make no mistake, this memoir is unlike any memoir you'll ever read—pornographic or otherwise." — Litractor's Bookshots "Tyler is a fantastic writer who holds his pen with the same confidence that a samurai holds his sword." — Xtube "Tyler Knight sets the new standard for pornographic biographies, serving more of a sophisticated and informative work of genius than a mere collection of rumors and scandals..." — Consciousness Magazine

"Tyler has one of the craziest life stories I've ever heard—and to top it off, he can really write. It's a rare thing for someone to both have something to say, and be able to say it well, but Tyler does." — Tucker Max, #1 New York Times Bestselling author of I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell and Time magazine candidate for World's Most Influential People, 2009 "A great, but disturbing

read!"Joe Rogan, UFC commentator, Host of NBC's Fear Factor, and The Rogan Experience Podcast"Burn My Shadow is poignant, gritty, and blunt."Stoya, Former Digital Playground contract star, multiple AVN winner, and resident sex columnist for The Verge"Tyler has never fit the typical mold of 'porno guy.' He's great looking but he isn't a meathead. His sensitivity, curiosity and introspectiveness are what make him so appealing."Oriana Small, author of Girlvert: A Porno Memoir"Burn My Shadow is at once bleak, heartfelt, and funny. Tyler Knight's inside look at the adult film industry has made me not wanna be a porn star."Jude Angelini, Author of Hyena and co-host of Sirius Satellite Radio's, The All Out Show"Tyler Knight's scalding and eye-opening memoir, Burn My Shadow, may well do for the sex industry what Upton Sinclair's The Jungle did for meat-packingwith the difference that the author, a porn actor who writes like a cross between Ralph Ellison and Celine, actually packed his own meat. At once a full-frontal meditation on 21st Century American celebrity and an up-close, blow-by-blow of life as the ultimate first person shooter, Burn My Shadow's real shock is not its Triple X-centric content, but the deep heart, wild-ass humor and fearless humanity of the writing itself. The perfect anecdote to literary memoir fatigue, Burn My Shadow is a truly unique, genre-defying, un-put-downable triumph."Jerry Stahl, author of Permanent Midnight and Old Guy Dad

Thanks to the All Out Show with Jude Angelini for putting me on to the book. Erik weaves a masterful tell of his experience in porn, his trials and tribulations, and his journey to find himself. The book is well written, and addicting to read.

Might have benefited from coming to this book with no preconceived ideas, something that's fitting for reading about a person's life. A person doesn't know what's around the corner and from the first pages we're there looking over Knight's shoulder, seeing what he sees and just as destabilized. Even when things seem to be going well, we never know if the next scene will be his first or last. As the industry changes around him, as his body's tolerance grows and his medications double, it's not guaranteed that there will be another call, and that tension persists throughout this *fast* 300 page book. To me reading this book you can begin to understand what a precarious existence he lived, and yet one way or another he manages to thread the needle (pun intended). A writer having lived these exploits could easily have filled this work with a surface-level retelling focused on the most lurid details, and yes this book has that and yes that's why many fans might choose to pick it from the shelf to buy, but Knight has much more of a story to tell than that. His passion for reflection and literature is clear on each page. You can tell a great deal of effort went into finding the mot juste and

that he is drawing on a big reservoir of language and grey matter. This is a work that wasn't written in a hurry, but you can tell these experiences--alternating between joyful, harrowing, revolting, suspenseful, and sometimes all four at once(!), showing how his need for survival took precedence over his ambivalence time and again--have been continuously relitigated in his mind ever since they first happened. In the memoir you're there with him, thinking through all these things with him, weighing different options and then anxiously waiting with him to see what might be the consequences. The book is very honest, whether channeling his rage and despair or showing the big successes and weaknesses. In a way, it's as much us the leering reader ogling through the window as it is him inviting one to see, and he uses that power dynamic to tell us what he really thinks, like it or not. For the first hundred pages it's difficult for us to know how much he enjoyed any of this. The focus seems to be the paycheck and the girls secondary. Then he'd have these superlatively blissful encounters, rare enough, when he and the person with him are able to break through the clouds and have an ecstatic moment of connection. At those points you're happy and jealous, but then another few pages and this uneasy peace is rent again by turmoil. While reading this, I was in the midst of preparing for the Army PT test and weigh-in. In such moments you're most aware of how Big Army owns your body and you better do what you must, if only to keep them off your back. As a military musician, however, I was also aware that I was in this position from having made a devil's bargain: I do what I love for a living, all the while knowing there'd always be a fly in the ointment. It'll never be a perfect gig but it's a gig, and many times will come where you hate the parts of the bargain that are so far removed from playing music. Carrying a plastic container to the men's room while a Sergeant watches you pee, all the while knowing that there's no avoiding this. But then you get the moments where the crowd is singing along with you, you and the drummer are locked in and a handful of people are moved to tears. Before accepting the job, I had the thought : you say you'll do anything to be able to play guitar for a living. Well, are you willing to go to war? If you say yes to the first but not to the second, then you were never serious and were only kidding yourself. All of these concerns and themes appeared again in the book as I was living them in my own way in my life, and so that made the book doubly satisfying. By the end of the book you realize that the book was only nominally about the porn industry, and instead it's a story of being alive.

FAUSTUSSStay, Mephistopheles, and tell meWhat good will my soul do thy
lord?MEPHISTOPHELESEnlarge his kingdom.FAUSTUSIs that the reason why he tempts us
thus?MEPHISTOPHELESSolamen miseris socios habuisse doloris. (To the unhappy it is a comfort
to have had company in misery). - The Tragical History Of Dr. Faustus, by Christopher MarloweThe

journey the author takes you on is real. It's not always pleasant, and is often gut wrenching, but it's about as authentic a literary journey as you are likely to take. Timelines get woven together in a way that jostles the reader's thinking enough to keep it constantly engaged, wondering how much of this story is an adult talking, and how much of it really comes through the eyes of a frustrated child just trying to get through a day. This is a triumph for author, industry, and reader. It should be on everyone's reading lists, and they'd better have the stomach for it.

I read this book on the recommendation of Conner Habib who is a porn star, writer, and philosopher I follow on twitter. If he recommends a book, I know it will be good! I love porn star memoirs and have read all of them. They're always insightful and entertaining even if the writing isn't that great. When I bought this book, I expected it to be entertaining, but I knew from the very first page that this was not just a typical memoir, it was a classic work of literature. I was drawn in from the first page to the last. Whether describing the funny and gross moments in porn scenes, that should be hot but are not, to getting stopped by the police just for the color of his skin, Tyler Knight sucks you in and presses your face to reality in a way I haven't seen writers do in a long time. The way the book unfolds is like a collection of short stories threaded by this common theme of pain, mental health, perseverance, sex, and social commentary. All things I relate to so much. I appreciated how the stories in Tyler's life were like flickers in your memory bank, not told in chronological order because your memories don't work that way. Each moment slowly revealed who Tyler is and drew you into his mind so you felt and saw everything as if you were him. There were moments in the book where I had to put it down because it was too much. I was abused as a child and the emotions Tyler drew out was a lot to process but it was good to know I wasn't the only one feeling these feelings. The book ended beautifully and left me with a lot to think about. I cannot say enough about how well this was written and how raw every moment in this book was. Read this book if you want to read incredible writing from an original voice. I also recommend it for people who have depression and have gone through childhood trauma because this book will take you places where you need to go in order to deal with what you've experienced. Thank you for this book Tyler. I will be rereading it over and over again with all my other classic favorites.

Mr Knight tells a most unique story from his amazing past in a very entertaining style. I came for the graphic scenes. I stayed because of the personal ones. I'll buy the next book because I believe his story is true. Author delivered.

Tyler Knight is brilliant. And you will be able to see that right away with how beautifully he writes. Interesting and descriptive book, written with utmost intelligence. Highly recommended.

This is a very good read. Tyler Knight is an intelligent, funny and descriptive writer that places you right in the middle of some of the scenes he's known for (Don't front. If you know the name, you certainly know what he does for a living). Definitely worth picking up!

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