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Scars & Stripes: The Culture Of Modern Roller Derby



Synopsis

Join photographer and skater Andr  f  anna Seymore on her fearless journey through the world of roller derby, beginning with her serendipitous introduction to the sport in 2008. Modern roller derby is a vibrant, empowering, and revolutionary movement transitioning from obscure subculture to mainstream pastime on both a national, as well as global, stage. Action-packed and emotionally provocative photographs taken over a five-year period reveal the joy, pain, and dedication of these athletes on and off the track. Enriched by riveting and often touching commentary from nearly one hundred skaters, coaches, fans, and referees, this book captures the daring, entrepreneurial spirit of the participants, the extraordinary bonds that form, and the invigorating and infectious fanaticism that characterizes every bout. An increasing number of male, co-ed, and junior leagues all share a strong, do-it-yourself ethic that combines fierce athleticism with elements from punk, camp, and third-wave feminist aesthetics. In part because of this non-discriminatory nature, roller derby is currently the fastest growing sport in America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andr  f  anna Seymore earned her BFA in Photography from SVA and has been working as a professional photographer since. She has been developing Scars & Stripes for five years, traveling extensively to capture the culture of this fast-growing phenomenon. Visit Andr  f  anna Seymore at andreanna.com.

Got this book for my daughter. Probably not my best idea for a 12 year old but what are you gonna do? Her derby name is Scars and Stripes and it was a HUGE hit. Love the book. So many great pictures and stories.

The extreme amount of photographic talent and passion for this sport is abundantly evident in this beautifully constructed book by Anna Seymore. The high quality of these pictures and the stories they tell, both with and without captions submitted by the gratefully photographed, speak to a narrative of a fringe sport that is among the most inclusive athletic pursuits ever organized.

Love it, insightful portrait of the culture, beautiful photos.

What a great way to have captured roller derby for generations to come!

Pictures are amazing. My derby daughter loved receiving this book as a gift.

Nice heavy stock paper, with glossy finish. Lots of pictures.

I've always had a fascination with roller derby. Maybe it's because it's a sport where girls are encouraged to be strong and bad ass. Maybe it's because I have a preference for fashion that involves fishnets and bright makeup. Or maybe it's got to do with my love of names that involve a sharp pun. Regardless, I've always been interested in derby culture. In fact, once my local team hosts "fresh meat" auditions, I have every intention of going and getting involved. When Scars and Stripes came onto my radar, I knew I needed it ASAP. I'm glad it lived up to my hopes. This book gives a great, uncommon insight into the derby world, glimpses that most "outsiders" don't get a chance to see. It includes behind the scenes stories and photographs of both male and female derby skaters. From icing bruises, to Jell-o wrestling, to national championship victories and drinks with the team, this gives an honest and heartfelt look at one of the most underrated (in my humble opinion) sports around today. I really loved hearing what all the skaters had to share. They have great memories and fierce loyalty and dedication. It was so cool to read about. I liked that a lot of ages, teams, genders, and stories were represented in this book, giving the book a well-rounded feel. And then of course there's the photography, which is absolutely phenomenal. The colors, the shots, the stories the photographer is able to tell with her pictures is amazing. They gave great insight and illustrated the skaters' stories well. It made this book the kind of book that I would come

back and flip through over and over again. In addition to being a great story told about the life of roller derby skaters, it's also a work of art. I was blown away. If you're interested in roller derby, involved in it, or just want to look at some stunning photography, Stars and Stripes is the book for you. Thanks to Netgalley & Schiffer Publishing for my copy in exchange for my honest review.

I've thought for a number of years that I was made for Roller Derby. I have a slight ::cough:: temper and aggression problem, and for a complete non-athlete like me, this felt like the ideal sport. But quite naturally, I assumed I would kill myself or others just trying. This book both confirms that, and makes me think I could handle it. Don't ask me how it does both simultaneously. That's part of what makes it so special. The pictures on their own are phenomenal, and then you read the stories attached. I want to go to bouts featuring all of these ladies and gentlemen, and root loudly for each and every one of them. You see just how much of their all they put in, bruises and breaks included. My one complaint would be, I wish we saw more of the other side of their lives. We had one flight attendant, and one farmer's daughter, and that was it. The juxtaposition between lawyer and roller derby girl are so huge, I want to see it. It felt like a tease. I admit I was far more interested in seeing the girls than the guys. Hunky men in skates are fantastic, but I went into this wanting girl power. Reading about the New York Shock Exchange was fun, though, and the further we got in, you read about all the respect these guys have for the derby girls, and that meant a great deal to me. A fantastic book, truly. And maybe I need to find out where the derby girls play around here.

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