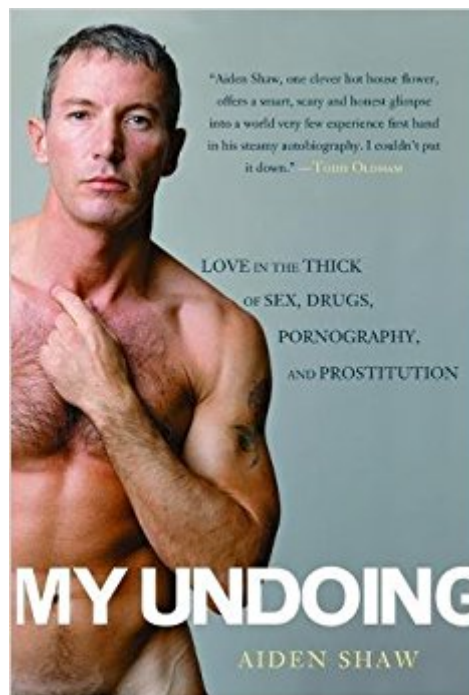




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My Undoing: Love In The Thick Of Sex, Drugs, Pornography, And Prostitution



Synopsis

For the first time, porn legend Aiden Shaw takes fans behind-the-scenes to the gay adult film world that made him a star. *My Undoing* ventures from locales such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and London, to the sets of premiere studios like Falcon, Catalina, and Studio 200. Yet, this is not the typical adult film memoir, where stars drop names and titillate readers with explicit moments. Although *My Undoing* shares in unsparing detail all the hot stories about the sex and drugs that fueled Aiden's life, it more profoundly follows him through a course of rocky and unfulfilling relationships. As Aiden eloquently and often humorously points out, the romantic life of an adult film superstar is sometimes lonely and lacking in love. But not love only in the form of a relationship, rather also love from within himself. The book is equally moving for his revelations about his Irish Catholic family, his Positive HIV status in the sex industry, and his recovery from a near fatal car accident that left him temporarily paralyzed.

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Customer Reviews

If Shaw's intention was to dash fans' assumption that porn performers live the erotic, carefree life that they portray on film, he has succeeded with this dull, aimless memoir. In his preface, Shaw is brutally honest about the book's shortcomings, admitting that while he wanted to "dissect my experiences objectively and be philosophical, all I was finally able to do was testify." Unfortunately, there's no immediacy to his writing to make up for the lack of introspection. His detached cataloging of drug use and sex is passionless. The fact that he's HIV-positive and much of this sex is unsafe isn't dealt with at all. Particularly telling is his experience being struck by a car when he's too high to

do anything but lie in the road; he's left with a brain lesion, broken bones and paralysis on his left side. Not every life story has to have an epiphany, but readers who suffer through his recovery are bound to feel cheated when he emerges from treatment completely unchanged. When the book ends abruptly-as if he'd run out of space in his journal and couldn't be bothered to buy a new one-he's back with Mr. Wrong. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Aiden Shaw has been a photographer and a director of pop promos, a model and an actor. He has an international reputation as a star of American-made hardcore films and is probably Britain's best known male sex star. His first novel, *Brutal*, published in 1996 and reprinted several times as well as translated into German and French, received wide attention in British and U.S. gay media.

In a series of short, well-constructed, and simply written chapters the author displays quite a talent for pointed insight into the ways we communicate with friends, family, and self. (praised Lambda Book Report; Gay Scotland noted: "Aiden Shaw has until now been saluted as Britain's first hardcore porn film star. With *Brutal* he demonstrates his ability to write a powerful story. He has not so much stripped bare as stripped to the soul.") His second novel, *Boundaries*, appeared in 1999; his third, *Wasted*, in 2001. He is also the author of a 1997 volume of poetry, *If Language At the Same Time Shapes and Distorts Our Ideas and Emotions*, which *Mandate* praised as "a gutsy accomplishment" and about which *Time Out* observed "Aiden Shaw finally proves the pen is mightier than the penis." Founder of the alternative rock band *Whatever*, Shaw is currently producing an album of his songs sung by Nina Silvert, with individual tracks being remixed by such diverse individuals as Todd Oldman, Chrissie Hynde, Joseph Holtzman (publisher/editor-in-chief of *Nest*), and Boy George. His Web site is aidenshaw.com.

I like Aiden Shaw, and I was excited when I saw this book advertised on . Reading this memoir was a disappointment, though. Shaw needed a lot more editorial assistance than he got in constructing this book. It is meandering, overall; Shaw wastes a lot of writing on superfluous details. But once in awhile, you get a glimpse of Shaw's writing potential in a surprisingly moving detail or passage. The subject matter covers Shaw's life immediately prior to his getting hit by a car and his subsequent recovery. He evades the bigger questions about the widespread use of drugs and unprotected sex among gay men. It is a given in Shaw's world that drugs are widely used and unprotected sex sometimes results in HIV infection, ho hum. I found myself wanting to shake him and say, "But what

does it all mean? You must know..."It is worth reading, if just to see a writer in the process of becoming. Slick it is not, surprisingly, despite Shaw's background in porno and prostitution. Shaw emerges in the book as a likable guy.

if it were not for the sex, good looks, sex, drugs, sex, booze, sex, prostitution, sex, tragedy, and sex.....it could have been anybody's life.

Why was this book written?

Presumably this was written because Mr. Shaw needed money. If he actually intended to share something with a reader - a not unjustifiable expectation on the part of a prospective reader - he failed incredibly well. The title leads one to think that love may actually be part of what is presented and hopefully some insight into that elusive and very pervasive human emotion. However, Mr. Shaw gives the reader neither insight, nor even the occasionally well written sentence. At best this reads like the narcissistic memoir of an inflatable doll. Scratch beneath the handsome picture of Mr. Shaw on the cover and you'll find that there is no there there, as Gertrude Stein once said. And that's the kindest thing that can be said on the basis of what's presented as his life in this book. I would not recommend it to anyone.

The book gave me a detailed glimpse into another world and now I am a more open-minded person (although I think there were too many drugs).

Here was an opportunity for a clearly-bright gay porn star to provide some insight into what makes him tick. I was hoping for autobiography but also self-revelation. Why did I go into this line of work? What keeps me doing it? What trade-offs are there? But instead this is a relatively monotonous stream-of-consciousness "diary" with little introspection. It's reporting, not analysis. A few interesting moments but mostly a disappointment. I was hoping to find brains behind the brawn. Not so much.

This is an interesting biography about the life of Aiden Shaw.

Good, tnks!

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