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The Concrete Wave: The History Of Skateboarding



Synopsis

Designed for a dedicated readership of skateboarding fans and aficionados, The Concrete Wave provides: A spectacular history of skateboarding (1960-2000); Hundreds of fabulous photographs - from the archival to the awesome!; An interview with world champion Tony Hawk, and much more...; All presented in a format both radical and readable and designed to appeal to everyone who loves their skateboard!

Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Warwick Publishing (September 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1894020545

ISBN-13: 978-1894020541

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,170,308 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Skateboarding](#) #2013 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports](#)

Customer Reviews

Forty years after its birth on the streets and in the empty swimming pools of California, skateboarding has become a legitimate sport. Legend Tony Hawk has graced a "Got Milk?" ad, and skate parks are popping up in landlocked middle America. Although Brooke, a "skategeezer" and member of Toronto's Metro Longboarders, wrote this for skateboarding's retired, active, and future practitioners, any sports fan will enjoy this colorful crash course. After a brief prehistory, readers ride four "waves" a nod to surfing from 1959 to the present. Within each, Brooke features skateboarding's inventors, investors, stars, companies, media, and technological advances in a magazine-like layout. Best of all are the smart-ass anecdotes (e.g., Bob Schmidt's "The Day They Invented Skateboarding") by skateboarders, which originally appeared on Brooke's Skategeezer home page. A four-part appendix lists skate pros, movies, competitions, and parks. A high-speed treat, even for the gravitationally challenged. Highly recommended, duuude. A Heather McCormack, "Library Journal" Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I have been skateboarding since 1975 and run a website called the Skategazer Homepage. It was this site that led to the publication of this book.

Along with Jocko Weyland's "The Answer is Never," I would highly recommend this book as a great reference for the history of all things Skateboard. The comprehensive history isn't overshadowed by narrow histories (i.e. Dogtown's story), nor personalities (i.e. Tony Hawk as the definitive spokesman), nor stereotypes as it examines the evolution of the skateboard from its start in the 60s as a Sidewalk Surfer toy, through waning bouts of popularity and decline, to the billion dollar industry it is today. The development of polyurethane wheels, the evolution of deck graphics, the magazines that facilitated its publicity, the rise of the pro skater, and everything in between to give skaters and non-skaters alike something to really appreciate about skateboarding. Hopefully, author Michael Brooke considers updating the book to incorporate the latest epoch.

Most of my youth was spent on a wooden board with 4 wheels attached to it. I am 45 years young now and I just recently started to skate again after taking 27 years without skating. Well, it ain't like riding a bike- BUT after a few spills and a lot of determination, I am BACK on BOARD, and am kicking myself for not doing it sooner! This book is GREAT, chocked full of Skateboard history and nice glossy photos that are priceless! Author Michael Brooke has really done his homework and research to put this MUST HAVE book on any skaters shelf! I just bought a Half Pipe for my backyard, something that I dreamed of having as a kid, and I'm having the time of my life! This book is a real trip down memory lane and I highly recommended it!

This book is definitely designed for the younger reader. I liked the graphical layout and many sidebars which is ideal for a reader like my son who has the attention span of a gnat unless it has anything to do with skateboarding. For this reason, I ordered this book for him. Initially, when he got it for xmas he put it aside then rediscovered it this month and couldn't put it down. That for me is a good thing and while I have read the negative reviews on this book regarding inaccuracies etc. I think this title is a good start for a novice skateboarder who should learn the history of a sport he loves. While this review is totally based on the reader and not the content, I think it's important for parents to know that this book works for reluctant readers!

My favorite book on skateboarding

Bought for nephew who is a skateboard nut. He loved the glossy pictures. Also lots of info in there about the history.

Finally a book about skateboarding that is actually written by someone who skates. The forword written by Rodney Mullen and the Alva interview also adds to the books credibility. Nice job.

This 1999 book is more like a bunch of 'zines stitched together than a straightforward history of skateboarding: There are lots of sidebars, numerous authors and topics, full-page illustrations that look like ads, and unexpected excursions into such areas as "Skateboards at the Movies." Still, there's a lot of love within this book. Those of you who enjoyed the recent documentary, "Dogtown and the Z-Boys," will find a similar fan/participant enthusiasm here. The early years are emphasized: The index lists Tony Hawk on only about 10 pages, and the X-games on only 4 pages. Still, for a chronicle of (especially) the early years of skateboarding, for its photos, density of information, and the enthusiasm of the writers, this is a good book for the skateboarding fan. 197 pages of text, an index, lots of photos, and five interesting appendices: "Pros of the Last 40 Years," "Skateboards at the Movies," "Skateboard Competitions (through 1993 only)," "Memorable Skateparks of North America," and "Skate 'Zines." What's really needed is an updated version of the book.

I have been skating for 33 years now and have been waiting about 15 years for a book like this ! What could have turned into a book just of stodgy lists of events has turned out to be a wealth of knowledge which is presented in a very readable way. The pictures throughout are excellent and will bring back many a memory. The history of the whole scene is as good as we are going to get (there will always be disagreements as to who and where etc) and is backed up by testimonial by people who were there ! What has surprised me about the book is the way non skaters pick it up and browse through it with interest. This is probably due to the way the book is formatted. The layout makes it easy to pick up and browse, the graphics are appealing to all. I can't recommend this book enough, apart from the fact there is no other book to compare it to it will be a very hard book to beat ! If you are an older skater you'll spend hours saying " I had one of those" , " I skated there," etc. If you are an ex skater it'll make you want to pick up a longboard and start again. If you are a younger skater it'll give you a sense of where your roots come from. If you are just someone who picks the book up you'll find it hard to put down !

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