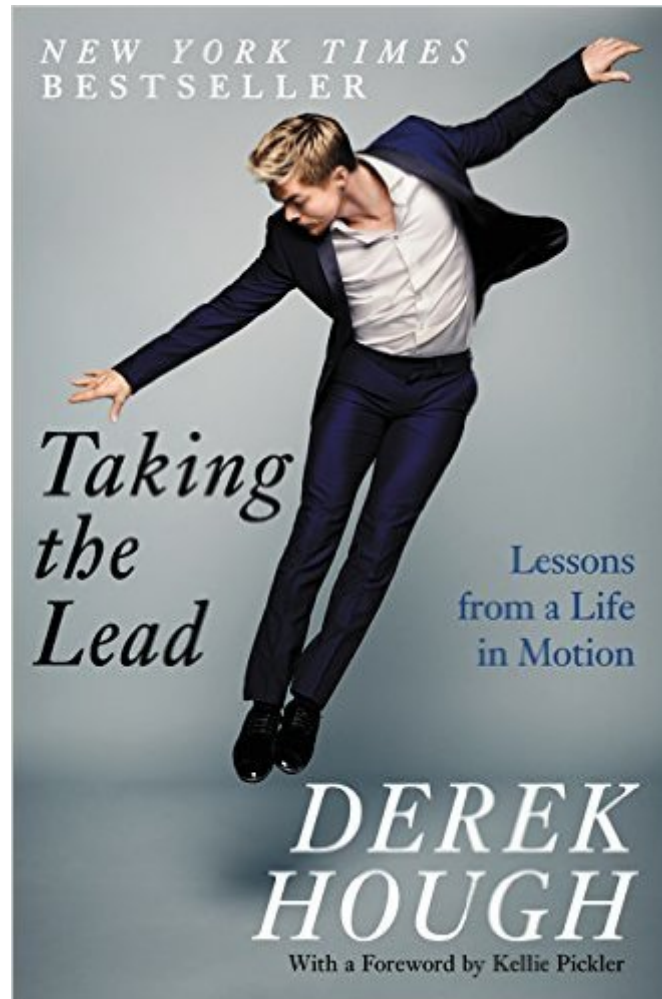


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# Taking The Lead: Lessons From A Life In Motion



## Synopsis

"Sometimes I've taken home the trophy, sometimes I've stumbled or tripped over my own feet. But every move I've made has shaped me into the person I am today." Season after season, millions of fans tune into *Dancing with the Stars* to watch Derek Hough, the talented, consummate competitor whose skill and commitment have made him the show's all-time champion. Whether he's dancing with an Olympic gold medalist, an internationally renowned recording star, or a celebrated actress, Derek has an undeniable talent for bringing out the best in his partners. He does more than just tutor them in the fox-trot and paso doble—he teaches them how to see beyond their limits and realize their true potential. Now, for the first time ever, Derek opens up about his transformation from bullied little boy to accomplished performer and coach who lets nothing—and no one—stand in his way. In *Taking the Lead* he details how his experiences have taught him to embrace a positive outlook, channel his creativity and drive, and face his fears head-on. From his early training in London beginning at the age of twelve, to grueling dance competitions around the world, to never-before-told stories from behind the scenes of *Dancing with the Stars*, Derek writes with honesty and insight about his extraordinary journey. And in sharing his own story, he shows all of us how we can take charge of pursuing our goals, overcome obstacles, and become winners—not just on the dance floor but in life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Such an incredible book. It was great to hear the backstories that have led Derek to where he is today. He has such a positive outlook on life and does an excellent job encouraging those reading

the book to have that same positive life. I definitely recommend this book to others. It's very well written, had behind the scenes info on Derek's life and DWTS, and provides much inspiration. I will certainly be reading this book again.

I've been a huge fan of Derek's since he came on the scene as a Pro on Dancing with the Stars back in 2007 in Season 5. I got the opportunity to meet this wonderful man in person last month while he was on tour with his sister, Julianne while they were touring the country with their Move Live on Tour show! He is such a kind and genuine person. We need more people in the world like him. He can dance, he can sing...honestly there's very few things in life this guy CAN'T do! So of course when I heard he was writing a book, I knew I had to get it! Like another reviewer said, I read this in one sitting. SO many nuggets of wisdom from a man who's only been on earth for 29 years. He's had many great experiences that a lot of people will never have but has used them to great advantage to get him where he is today. He strives to be the best at whatever he does. I don't think any of his former partners on DWTS would have anything bad to say about him and he is still good friends with most of them today. Several of them, Shawn Johnson, Brooke Burke, Jennie Garth, Amy Purdy, Maria Menounos, Nicole Scherzinger, Jennifer Grey and Amber Riley talk of how Derek inspired them. Kellie Pickler with whom he won Season 16 of the show wrote the forward of this book! Someone asked him and his sister that if DWTS did another all star season, whom would they want for their partner? Derek said Kellie Pickler because she had a way with her sweet silliness of drawing him out of a funk. They really were a fun pair to watch on the dance floor that season and I think their freestyle was my favorite of any I've EVER seen in 18 seasons of DWTS! Derek offers motivation and advice and I have picked up a few ideas and changes in my OWN life that I plan to make after reading Derek's book! I highly recommend it! I know that there are a LOT of people who can't stand this man but I urge you to read his book and I think that maybe you'll change your mind ;)

Derek Hough is an extremely talented person - I've watched him every season on DWTS as well as seen him in the DWTS live shows and in the Move tour. His dancing is mesmerizing to watch and his love of life is evident in all he does. He takes you on a journey through his life's experiences in his book, allowing you enough detail to feel like you actually know at least a part of what makes him tick and his life lessons are both attainable and inspiring. Derek Hough will continue to excel in all he does because he believes in himself! His honesty and positive approach to life are a breath of fresh air in a world of negativity.

I am a fat,old, handicapped person who never misses DWTS. I mean, never... and we have always cheered for Derek, no matter who his partner is. I'm enjoying his book because he gives such inspritational advice on keeping healthy, keeping positive. I am not quite finished with this book but it is a winner already.

I enjoy watching Derek Hough on "Dancing With The Stars". I love waiting to see what he will come up with each week and how he will, for want of better word, "change" his partners. He always makes a point to get to know them so he can bring out the best in them. Needless to say, I am overjoyed he decided to write a book about himself. This book contains not only the highs in his life but the very low ones. In each chapter there is a lesson to be leaned. After each chapter, he "breaks it down" and tells you what he learned from the experience. In words you can understand. This is a wonderful book that anyone can read and take away something from.

When I first started reading, I thought I was just going to get to know my FAVORITE dancer a little better. I was blown away with all the LIFE LESSONS learned along the way. It's an AMAZING read for everybody!!! I couldn't put it down, I read it in one sitting. Go Get This Book NOW!!!!

What an amazing man! I've always been overwhelmed by Derek's incredible talents from the first moment I saw him on DWTS. Kenny Ortega had it right. Derek redefines choreography for this generation. But what I love the most about Derek is the man that he is. This book only confirms what most of his fans already knew. There is so much to learn in this book that can be applied to everyone's life. He's a phenomenal spirit. How incredible that he finds the positive in all situations. With all the nonsense you read about young Hollywood, I'm so proud to be a fan of this extraordinary man.

Derek Hough is a talented and wise beyond his years young man. I bought the book because he is my favorite dancer on Dancing with the Stars, a TV show/ My expectation was a short autobiography. What a surprise! Each chapter is a lesson learned and a reflection written by someone with whom he shared that part of his life. Read this book and be amazed! He us an old soul with lots to teach and an attitude of life long learning.

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