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J.R.: My Life As The Most Outspoken, Fearless, And Hard-Hitting Man In Hockey



Synopsis

Jeremy Roenick, one of the premier hockey players of his generation and one of the greatest American stars the NHL has ever known, shares his life story in this frank and unflinching autobiography. After making his debut as an 18-year-old with the Chicago Blackhawks, Roenick thrilled fans with his flashy style, take-no-prisoners approach, and jaw-dropping skills. A native of Boston, Roenick went on to play for four more franchises—including the Philadelphia Flyers and Los Angeles Kings—during his incredible 18-season career. By the time he was through, Roenick had racked up 513 goals—the second most of any American-born player—and 703 assists. Now a tells-it-like-it-is commentator for NBC and the NHL, Roenick takes readers on a behind-the-scenes, warts-and-all tour through his illustrious career, both on and off the ice.

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Customer Reviews

Because any book about hockey will entertain me, this gets 3 Stars, but that's a little generous. The book could have used some serious editing - at times the organization didn't make a ton of sense, and it felt a little bit like Roenick just ranted stories at his ghostwriter and then the ghostwriter transcribed it. He also didn't come off as very likable (maybe I'm a little biased because he's a BC

deserter, but that was before my time so not really). I understand the "entertainment" aspect of his persona, and that does sell sports. But there's also a line between being honest / "real" and just being kind of a jerk. I particularly thought it was tacky to call out certain players that he didn't like in his book. It's also definitely clear reading his story that he has a big ego. I think people who are fans of Roenick's persona will love this book, but as someone who prefers the Jerry York school of hockey, he just rubbed me the wrong way.

I was a great fan of Jeremy Roenick's throughout his career, and was always thrilled to listen to his opinion, no matter how off-the-wall it was. This book was no different. If you want a formal, well-written book, don't click "Add to Cart" on this one, as the writing is far from perfect. But the content and the stories JR writes about are priceless. If you're looking to read about the time he had to avoid Mike Keenan by climbing through a hotel air vent, or about hilarious times on the bench or in the locker room, or even a serious story about his family or his time rehabbing from concussions, JR is the book for you. A laugh-a-minute, entertaining, and really enlightening, it's a book every hockey fan should have.

Autobiographies of athletes are more like extended interviews than they are great literary compositions. Also, hockey players aren't expected to be saints. So, for me, the best way to assess books such as these is to judge the level of honesty from the subject in question. Jeremy Roenick does not disappoint. As a teenager, I watched many of the games he talks about in this book. I also remember fondly the Mike Keenan era in Chicago. Mike Keenan, the legendary coach of the Flyers, Blackhawks, Rangers and others, plays a prominent role in this book, as there are many stories about him, most of them hilarious. The strength of this book is the inside look into the hockey dressing room and the camaraderie shared amongst the teammates that Roenick provides. I learned some new things as well, like how different it was for an American hockey player trying to make the NHL versus a Canadian. I found myself disagreeing with many of Roenick's opinions and philosophies. He seems to make many excuses for his past mistakes and failings on the ice, but then again such behavior is typical of championship-caliber athletes. If they focused for too long on their failures, they would never have the resolve to push forward and meet new challenges. It's great seeing him as an analyst on television now, and as a fan I wish only the best for him. I found this book to be very entertaining.

As a life long Hawks fan who saw almost every one of Roenick's games when he was with

Chicago this book probably is more meaningful to me than most. I've always considered Roenick to be a unusual and great player on the ice. Few have been able to combine the hitting and the goal scoring. Off the ice I have always thought of him as a bit of a wild card. This book confirms both. I liked every part of the book and especially likes the chapter in which he rates his favorites. I wonder how Rob Ray and Oleg Tverdovsky feel about it? They probably don't care because they probably consider the source. What disappointed me about the book was JR's contradictory character. When he messed up there was always an excuse. It was his competitive nature or someone disrespected him. He isn't so forgiving of others. There is clearly more that went unwritten and we as fans have no right to know the more intimate details of his marriage, gambling and bizarre behavior. It would be hard to think any more of him on the ice. He was a great. It is also hard to take him seriously off the ice. So nothing has really changed but it was a lot of fun reading his story.

Big Blackhawks fans here. Son had to read this for his 10th grade summer reading. He said the language is "colorful", haha! Love hearing stories about our players "behind the scenes".

if you like hockey this is a great, easy book to read. I read it one day. the stories are funny, intense, brutally honest from J.R. For me I played some hockey against him when I was young and he was a legend growing up. The best pure skater I ever saw. The funny thing he was a pussy when he was young and got transformed into fearless wrecking ball which he explains in the book.

Laugh out loud look at the career of Jeremy Roenick. When doing interviews he never held his tongue and in this book he just puts all his thoughts out there and doesn't care what the reader thinks. For an NHL fan JR provides a great look at late 80s to mid 2000s NHL scene. Worth a read.

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