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King of the Cowboys

By Ty Murray



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The champion cowboy describes his youth, his determination to become a rodeo star, his rise to success in the sport, the life-threatening injuries that nearly ended his career, and his struggle to return to the sport he loved.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This breezy autobiography is an excellent insider's glimpse into the roughshod world of the contemporary competitive rodeo business, of which Murray is undoubtedly a superstar. The youngest rider to win the world all-round championship, Murray is also the first to win it seven times, the first to win more than one million dollars in prize money, and the first to successfully market himself to a wider sports-world audience.

Although Murray is only in his early 30s, he manages to cover substantial ground here, from family roots in the famous Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch in Arizona and riding his mother's Singer sewing machine-"the perfect mechanical bull for a thirteen-month-old"-to early professional success at age 19. Part of the book's charm comes from Murray's gleeful acknowledgment that he is living the life he has always wanted to live, "from the time I was old enough to walk." Murray also credits growing up in a family of riders, and gaining early support and training from legendary rider Larry Mahan-whose six-time championship record Murray would go on to break-and successfully recovering from serious knee and shoulder surgeries that he describes in unsparing detail. Murray's story embodies the substantial change in the rodeo-rider image from old Western movie cliches to its current incarnation in the slick but still entertaining Professional Bull Riders organization. Murray's sizable fan base is certain to rope this one in, but the book's engaging style has the ability to draw in readers unfamiliar with his story.

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From [Booklist](#)

All eight-year-olds know what they want to be when they grow up; most of these dreams are just that, but Murray made his come true. He wanted to be a rodeo rider, and, at the age of 32, he has won more riding championships than anyone else. But, as he tells us in this straightforward autobiography, it wasn't a smooth trip from boyhood dreams to adult reality: injuries, suffered when he was poised to climb to the top of his chosen field, threatened to sideline him permanently. But a combination of courage, stamina, and a sheer, unwavering vision saw him through. Although it's simply written--even with the help of coauthor Eubanks, Murray remains a rodeo star, not a prose stylist--the book avoids movie-of-the-week cliches and manages to be entertaining, enlightening (we learn tons about the world of the rodeo), and, at times, genuinely inspiring. Triumph-in-the-face-of-adversity stories are a dime a dozen, but this one is just different enough to stand apart from the group. *David Pitt*

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About the Author

Ty Murray was born in Glendale, Arizona, in 1969. By the time he was nineteen he had won Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's Overall and Bareback Riding Rookie of the Year. The following year, he won his first PRCA World All-Around Championship, and by 23 was the youngest cowboy millionaire the sport had ever known. In all, he has won a record seven all-arounds, as well as PRCA World Bull Riding titles in 1993 and 1998, and the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo average crowns in 1993 (bareback riding) and 1998 (bull riding). In 2000, Ty Murray was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and he retired from professional rodeo in 2001. He lives in Stephenville, Texas.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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