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Queen Of Ice, Queen Of Shadows: The Unsuspected Life Of Sonja Henie



Synopsis

The naive American public knew her as a blonde bundle of energy who won Olympic gold medals and world figureskating championships and whose first film for Darryl Zanuck established her as a top box-office attraction. The Norwegian papers called her "pro-Nazi" and a "female Quisling." She called Adolf Hitler "my dear friend." Only those closest to her saw the Sonja possessed by an insatiable passion for money, diamonds, furs, and men. Lawsuits and hysterical attacks against her family were brought on by alcoholic binges; friends and business associates were spied upon, abused, and alienated; at her second divorce she staged a midnight raid with a moving van on the posh estate she had occupied with her husband -- she stripped it bare, taking even the toilet tissue. Sonja took dozens of lovers, from among Hollywood's biggest stars and lowliest extras, and three husbands, but there was only one man she ever loved, Tyrone Power. When she died of leukemia in 1969, her multi-million-dollar fortune was intact, but she had disinherited her blood relatives, left her faithful secretary of twenty-six years with nothing, and had left instructions that her jewelry be permanently displayed as if they were the Crown Jewels of England. This book could have been called Sonja Dearest.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this biography of the legendary Queen of Ice, Miss Sonja Henie. It is full of interesting information about her phenomenal career as a skater as well as her successful acting career. Although not much of an actress, she hit Hollywood at just the right time to become a huge money-maker for 20th Century-Fox. With her cute pixie looks and her captivating performances on

the ice, Fox teamed her with top male stars such as Don Ameche and Tyrone Power. Power was Fox's top male star at the box office during the thirties, He and Sonja not only were a top attraction on the screen, but had a well publicized affair in real life. Raymond Strait also gives us a surprising picture of the dark side of Miss Henie with her nasty disposition and vindictive personality resulting in shocking treatment of her family and peers. The book is well-written: not overbearing with tedious details, but a very believable story of one of my childhood idols.

I was surprised that Ms. Henie was a drunk and mean and vindictive. It was a life that was about her and her only. Not a very good example of using the gifts one was given by God and hurting people consistently during your life. She is not someone I would have looked up to or wanted to know.

perfect order... Arrived in perfect new condition.. The price was great..Very Happy

Excellent!

Interesting person, interesting book by her brother.

The book presents a balanced view of a woman who was ahead of her time regarding sexual freedom of choice for women. And who was a mean drunk. She was also a fantastic skater, competitor, self promoter, innovator and business woman throughout her life. Should a fan of Sonja's read it? Of course they should! It is what it is. There are few saints roaming the earth and Sonja was not one of them. But hers is surely is a fascinating story!

This is an excellent biography of the Olympic Champion Ice Skater and Hollywood Star. It is sad that this woman was so narcissistic and that her parents contributed to her being that way. This biography holds nothing back and reveals what a complicated person Sonja Henie was. She was not loyal to anyone, never said I'm sorry and racked her own mother and brother over the coals and anyone else who got in her way. It is a mystery why Dorothy Stevens, her long time secretary and main contributor to the details in the book stayed with her, giving Henie a loyal and faithful servant. Henie gave nothing in return. After reading this I come to the conclusion that Henie made a pact with the devil who gave her everything money could buy and then came to collect. Henie was a great skater, a lousy actress and a very, very evil person. Her parents catered to her every whim

and spoiled her rotten, thus creating a thoroughly despicable monster. Given all the evil things she did to so many people, especially those closest to her, it's a wonder somebody didn't take her ice skates and butcher her to pieces with them!

After reading this book I just shook my head at how this "woman" treated everyone including her whole family... i am just lost for words.... shame on her.... !!

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