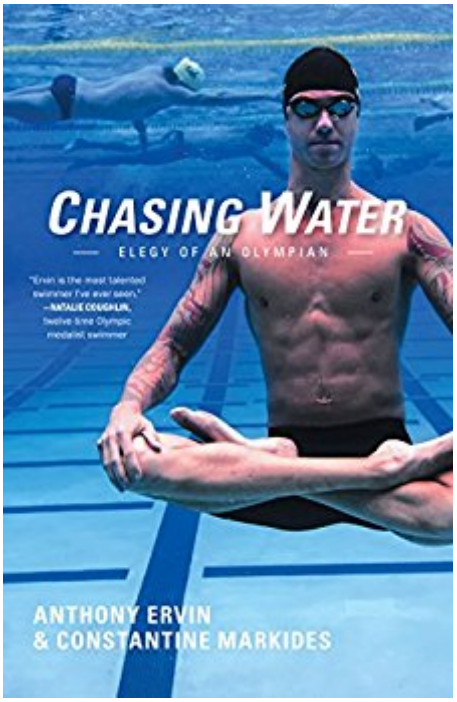
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Chasing Water: Elegy Of An Olympian



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Synopsis

“Here Ervin and swim trainer and journalist Markides combine talents to create a biography that is part first-hand narrative by Ervin, with Markides filling in the details and providing context. The formula works, pulling readers into ErvinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s experience of the thrill of victory and search for meaning. . . . Featuring more depth, breadth, truth, and the effects of reckless choices than found in traditional athlete biographies, this gripping account is just in time for the gear up to the Rio 2016 Olympics. Readers will understand the psyche and life of elite athletes as never before, then cheer Ervin on in his attempt to make another Olympic team.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Library Journal“A celebrated Olympian recounts how he rose to the top of his sport, crashed, and found redemption. . . . This book, which tells his story through a narrative that interweaves the former gold medalistÃ¢â ¬â„¢s memories with commentary by his friend and colleague Markides, reveals the extreme highs and lows that characterized ErvinÃ¢â ¬â„¢s remarkable life and career. . . . The author never flinches at revealing his less-than-perfect past, and the humility he demonstrates at coming to terms with his own egotism and personal shortcomings makes the book frequently compelling. A provocative and refreshingly honest redemption memoir.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Kirkus Reviews“Markides smartly combines his own journalistic account with a parallel narrative in which Ervin . . . explains his life and style. Some talents simply defy explanation, however, and Ervin may be in that category. . . . The story of his comeback at 31 (ancient for a swimmer) is rendered more amazing by the contrast with what went before.Ã¢â ¬Â•--Booklist"For Anthony Ervin, the stretch between his two greatest athletic achievements — two Olympic gold medals — included a suicide attempt, a period of homelessness and a stint in a rock band. Jobs found, then lost. Too much drinking, too many drugs. Depression. Confusion. And then, a kind of rebirth."--USA Today"An inspiring, humorous and often profound biography."--People Magazine"Anthony Ervin is a lot of things. He is an open book and a closed circuit, a body fueled by a brain, an old man with a young soul. He is the American Dream. He is, once again, improbably, an Olympic champion."--Yahoo

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Heard about this book on Rich Roll’s podcast (he wrote a great book, Finding Ultra) and was intrigued given Ervin’s return to the Rio Olympics.It goes from Anthony’s first person narrative to the co-author and friend’s Constantine’s view/almost interview questions.More an introspective into Anthony’s intellectual and spiritual journey through life (and sometimes v off the beaten path!) than a typical athletic memoir, it’s amazing that he made it to Rio gold, let alone is still alive!! Surprised I highlighted quite a lot of passages - but appreciate his vulnerability and honesty putting his story out there in the world.Be forewarned, some parts are graphic and may not be suitable for a younger audience.Don’t need to be a swimmer to appreciate it (but you’ll love and be inspired by the race/training references if you are). And if you went to Cal, you’ll love the old stomping ground references.Would love a follow-up post Rio and pre-Tokyo book. Go Bears!!

I have been reading "Chasing Water" for only a few days. It is a powerful book, filled with the author’s reflective and deep expression of the hardships he has faced yet his undying courage, giving nature and love for all. In reading this book, I pray the world is filled with more people like Anthony. Anthony is a heroe, he is like a saint in his humbleness and giving nature. I felt pain to hear him always criticize himself. He is such a special person and his willingness to share his journey with the world is beyond courageous. Thank you for this amazing work to Constantine Markides for working with Anthony on this amazing project. The book is both historical, poetic, spiritual and the blatant reality of what so many of us are too timid to portray, our weaknesses and

self criticisms; but in Athony's case how he overcomes them and he sure has.

As a swimmer my review might be slightly biased because I can relate to so much of the book, but even for the non swimmer this is a fantastic read. This book is unlike any other athlete biography I've ever read. Its incredibly raw and honest, following Anthony from childhood through his highs and lows. The author does a great job narrating while letting Anthony's voice and story shine. I found it inspiring, especially reading it a couple months before the Olympics. It made me feel like I knew him and what brought him to that moment winning gold. Don't hesitate, buy it, download it, share it with friends cause its a great book and a staple in my library now

Anthony does a great job of telling the swimmer's story without over-telling it. It's a biography, he covers his childhood up to the 2012 Olympics. The book is half written by him in the 1st person and half written by another author in the 3rd person. It's a much more intellectual storytelling experience than other swim books I've seen, which romanticize the sport (not a bad thing) or focus on the emotional ride. He asks some really good questions throughout.The book also covers what's going through his mind from a very normal childhood (angsty kid) to wandering young adult (sex, drugs, rock and roll life). I found myself surprised how often I highlighted his reflections, hoping to learn from his lessons with his parents, peers and his own mind (he lived with depression at different times).This book somehow made me excited to swim again.

Anthony Ervin is one of those rare people who comes along and has actually lived a life more interesting than your own. After leaving the world of swimming behind, Ervin went and traveled the world trying to find himself and also realize what was missing from his life. This book take you from California to Amsterdam and back. This is a great book from who might be the most interesting man in the sport.

Chasing Water is a must-read. Anthony's candor is truly refreshing, genuine, and inspiring. Glad I chose to read this after watching his stellar performance in Rio because the media coverage of him didn't do him justice. I don't normally read sports memoirs, but his backstory and "bad boy" reputation really piqued my interest. Really well-written, especially with the tag-team style of the two writers, but I found myself wanting to see more of Anthony's personal recollections.

This is without a doubt the most entertaining biography I've read. It's presented in an

unconventional format, bouncing back and forth between narrative by Constantine Markides and Anthony Ervin's own words. The two perspectives are in perfect harmony and the result is a beautifully written tale of a truly unique individual.

Bought it for my daughter . She is a competive swimmer and she loves it. She said it's not about swimming, its about a journey of finding yourself.

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