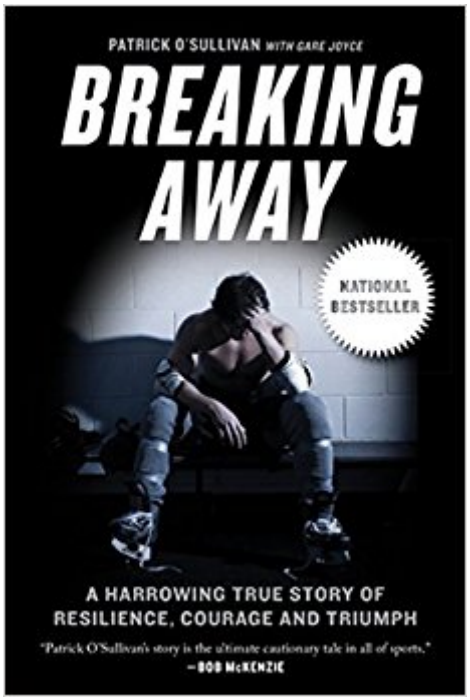
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Breaking Away: A Harrowing True Story Of Resilience, Courage, And Triumph



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Synopsis

Patrick OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan was a kid with skills, with natural gifts that catapulted him into the spotlight and made NHL scouts rave. OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan seemed destined to become one of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s next great hockey players. But then it all went horribly wrong.In the national bestseller Breaking Away, Patrick OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan gives readers a disturbing account of ten years of ever-escalating physical abuse and emotional cruelty at the hands of his father. When Patrick proved more skilled than other eight-year-olds, John OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan decided to dedicate his life to turning his son into the player he had always dreamed of becoming. Shouting at the top of his lungs, John OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan was the typical over-involved parent. Many teammates, parents and coaches thought it ended there. Few had any idea of the dysfunction and violence at the OÃ¢â ¬â„¢SullivansÃ¢â ¬â„¢ home.Breaking Away is a story about abuse, but it is also a story about triumph, as OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan revisits the ghosts of his past.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers; Reprint edition (October 25, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1443444677

ISBN-13: 978-1443444675

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #346,397 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 inÃ Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey #94 inÃ Â Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey #216 inÃ Â Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Patrick OÃ¢â ¬â„¢SullivanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story is the ultimate cautionary tale in all of sports. . . . That Patrick OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan survived his childhood to play in the NHL is a testament to his talent. That he tells it all in Breaking Away is a testament to his courage.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Bob McKenzie, TSN, and author of Hockey Confidential)Ã¢â ¬Å“A tragic and at times disturbing account of abuse. . . . I hope that writing this brave and honest book and raising awareness of this troubling issue allows Patrick to find peace of mind.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Elliotte Friedman, Hockey Night in Canada)Ã¢â ¬Å“An inspirational story and a cautionary tale. You find yourself rooting for a kid who lived through a

nightmare just to play hockey and pursue his dream. . . . No one should have to go through the awful stuff that Patrick endured growing up.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Bobby Ryan, Ottawa Senators)Ã¢â ¬Å“Patrick OÃ¢â ¬â„¢Sullivan had the will to survive in awful circumstances that would break almost anybody else. That he survived and played professional hockey prove his strength of character. Breaking Away is not just about the damage done but also moving on and at long last finding happiness.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Todd Marinovich, former NFL and CFL quarterback)

PATRICK O'SULLIVAN was the OHL and CHL rookie of the year in 2002 and the AHL rookie of the year in 2005. He remains the all-time leader in games, goals, assists and points for the Mississauga/Niagara franchise in the OHL. He played 334 games over eight seasons with the Los Angeles Kings, Edmonton Oilers, Carolina Hurricanes, Minnesota Wild and Phoenix Coyotes in the NHL. He played in three World Junior Championships and is all-time second in games played for the USA in tournament history. He scored the gold-medal winning goal for the United States team at the world junior championships in 2004, the first gold medal in the team's history. The 30-year-old now lives in southwest Florida with his wife and two sons.GARE JOYCE is a senior writer for Sportsnet Magazine. A former writer for ESPN: The Magazine and The Globe and Mail, Joyce has won four Canadian national magazine awards and been a finalist 21 times. He is author of seven books of sports non-fiction, including When the Lights Went Out, Future Greats and Heartbreaks and The Devil and Bobby Hull. Under the nom de plume G.B. Joyce, he has written two mystery novels, The Code and The Black Ace.

Admittedly, I haven't quite finished this book yet. It's a really difficult, emotional, and raw story. I found myself having to take breaks because the content would be too emotionally intense and hard to think about. That being said, this book is definitely worth reading. Mr. O'Sullivan does not hold back in his story, and it is important that we are all aware of signs of familial abuse in the lives of children. His story is an important one.

I was moved deeply by this book. It took a lot of courage for Patrick O'Sullivan to write about his harrowing experience growing up. I also learned a lot about hockey and what it takes to even have a chance to go pro. This is an important message to all youth sports programs that there needs to be more diligence paid to the kids playing the game and not just the score. My only complaint about this book is that it was very poorly edited and, at cost of $16, there should have been much better editing.

Just finished reading this. Patrick O'Sullivan tells his story of being a talented and decorated junior hockey player with a promising career in the NHL. Little did anyone know, he was playing to stay alive. His career cut short by his brutal background, he only began to live the day he walked away from the game. His healing journey will never end, but he is a success story with a loving wife and kids. I took away from this a greater sense of responsibility as a coach, parent and adult to protect these innocent children. Some of his coaches tried to help in their own way, most were ignorant to the terror he was living and looked beyond the red flags. Thank you for sharing your story with the world. May good come of it for you and all who read it.

Thanks for sharing your story Patrick. I love listening to you on NHLN with Scott Laughlin.

Great hockey book about a young man trying to overcame a horbblie childhood and still playing in the NHL. The book made me lol cry

I went into this not knowing story, having listened to Patrick a few times on radio. It is a tear jerker, especially for anyone who has experienced even 1% of what he did. A survival story like no other. Also a huge eye opener for sports parents. Kids' sports are a ton of fun. But it gets extreme, I've seen it. Not to the point of warning bells going off, but close. Sports parents, please read this book.

Heart wrenching! I just want to give Patrick a great big hug for all he's be through and wish he never had to go through the agony he endured for so many years. His father was a monster and his mother disgraces the title of MOTHER to have allowed this torture.

Great/tough message from Sully. Not the best editing and fluency but its a real message from a real hockey guy. Big thanks to him for having the courage to share his story.

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