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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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jeremy Roenick is a member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and one of only four American-born players to score 500 or more career NHL goals. He is currently a hockey analyst for NBC. Kevin Allen is the author or coauthor of more than a dozen sports books, including *Brett: His Own Story*, *Star-Spangled Hockey: Celebrating 75 Years of USA Hockey*, and *Without Fear: Hockey's 50 Greatest Goaltenders*. He lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

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.

Great story. One of the Best USA hockey players

This is a good book by one of the more outspoken ex players and hockey analysts of the NHL... Saw J.R. play many a night for the Blackhawks and he could really play and hit.. I marveled how such a trim 170lber could hit like he did and play fearless.. No doubt he's always been character and in this book he shares some of his wild experiences..

I found this book to be both funny and informative. there was not as much "insider" info on my favorite players or teams, just the ones JR had played with and for. I thought there was too much swearing, particularly the f-bomb. By the end of the book, I found I really didn't like JR all that much. A little too much entitlement in his attitude. His parents sacrificed A LOT for him, and after the first couple of chapters he never mentioned them. Also never mentioned his brother. He seems to be living a charmed life, and he seems to think he deserves it. Not someone I would want to know. But the book had some very funny parts. Just not enough humility.

I am a hockey fanatic but I won't buy just any book about hockey or a hockey player. I enjoyed reading of JR's escapades as he climbed the ladder into the NHL and I appreciated his straightforward "tell it like it is" style. I don't know if he is the "most outspoken" man in hockey but he

does seem pretty fearless and hard hitting. I enjoyed his days when he played for my beloved Chicago Blackhawks and was sorry to see him go when he did. A good read!

I was always the biggest JR fan when he was a player. Not so much of his mouth and ego so reading his book was a bit of a challenge but it was rewarding seeing his journey from HS to retirement. It was also a pleasant surprise seeing how many of my questions about his opinion and remembrance of specific players... teammates and opponents alike were answered. Haters of JR probably won't get much out of it other than reinforcement of their opinion.

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.

Being an avid hockey fan this book takes me back to when hockey players partied hard but still did their job on the ice. Jeremy Roenick has been a helluva player, ambassador, and mouthpiece that the NHL should use more and more to represent fresh homestead straight from the heart. Him not winning a Stanley Cup is meaningless. Look at how he has changed the landscape just from opening his mouth. Well done, Jeremy. Well done indeed.

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