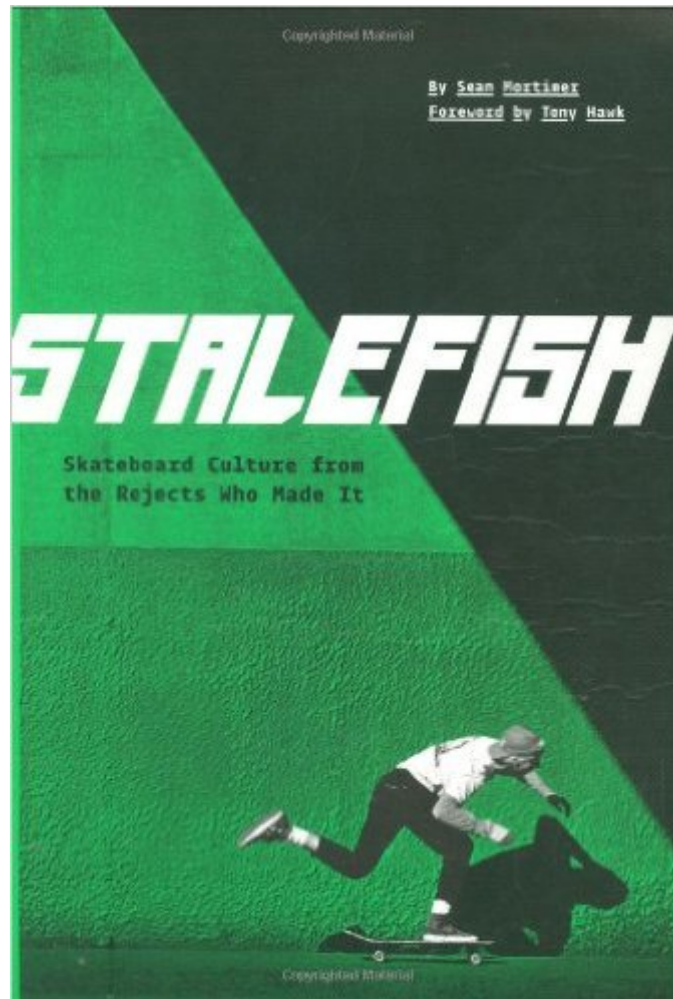


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# Stalefish: Skateboard Culture From The Rejects Who Made It



## Synopsis

How is professional skateboarding different from, say, professional golfing? More scabs, for one. And is skateboarding actually a sport? In *Stalefish*, veteran journalist and former pro skater Sean Mortimer interviews Rodney Mullen, Steve Olson, Tony Hawk, Stacy Peralta, Jamie Thomas, Lance Mountain, Tommy Guerrero, Russ Howell, Mike Vallely, Dave Hackett, Daewon Song, Jim Fitzpatrick, Steve Alba, Kevin Harris, Bob Burnquist and Chris Haslam in search of answers, and to discover what drove them and millions of other disenfranchised youth to obsession with empty pools, sewer ditches, and handrails. This book may not settle the sport versus subculture versus cult debate, but with stories of skate-induced ulcers, skatepark torture, ramp arson, trespassing, the birth of punk, and more, it captures like no other how skateboarding can derail your life in a beautiful way.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

The Dogtown movies got people interested in the history of skateboarding, but Sean Mortimer's book throws a wider net to encompass some of the biggest names in skating. It's not a book about contests, sponsorships and who made up what tricks (although that is a component of the book). To me it really was a celebration of what skating meant to-, did for- and brought about in the lives of these skaters. Readers will find out how some of these guys used skating to escape unhappy family lives; how it feels to be a celebrity at 14 and then a has-been at 18; what it's like to be so obsessed with a "hobby" that nothing else matters. There are funny stories about being on the road; meeting skating idols and then beating them in competition; and a bunch of other inside info that really makes these skaters seem more real than an any X-Games interview can. It's all told in the words of

the skaters with great photography. If you have any interest in skateboarding get this book.

While Sean's work on Rodney Mullen's biography wasn't quite what I hoped, *Stalefish* is an awesome, often intriguing collection of almost roadtrip tales from the legends who've made skateboarding into what it is today. There's a lot of funny stories here making you realize just how haphazard the whole skate scene was back in the 1980's and early 1990's. The layout and the production values are excellent too. Highly recommended to especially those who grew up on skateboarding back in the day.

This was given as a gift to my oldest son who was a sk8er. he loved the book

As a skateboarder, I found this a very interesting book. I simply couldn't put it down. It largely consists of extracts of interviews with skateboarders about all aspects of skateboarding and is written in their own words. This is fortunate because Sean Mortimer is not a good writer. He ghost-wrote Tony Hawk and Rodney Mullen's autobiographies and did not do a good job at all. I've seen articles written by both Hawk and Mullen in skateboard magazines over the years and in my opinion both can write better than Mortimer. Those two books are both readable - but only because the stories themselves are so compelling. The writing style is amateurish to say the least. Mortimer should have stuck to skating. Unfortunately, his poor writing does creep into *Stalefish* via the small introductory sections. Mercifully, these can be skipped.

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