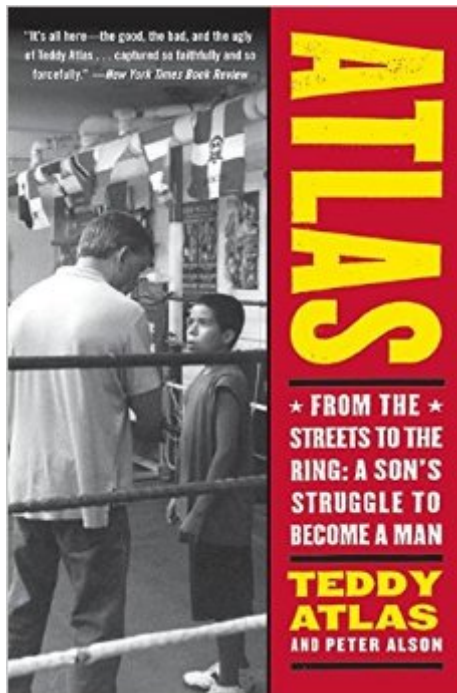


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Atlas: From The Streets To The Ring: A Son's Struggle To Become A Man



Synopsis

"Of all the people who have affected by my life and influence the choices I've made, none has been more important than my father." So begins the autobiography of legendary boxing trainer and commentator Teddy Atlas, who grew from the rebellious son of a doctor to a man who embraces, and lives by, his father's values and code. In this gritty, spellbinding tale, Atlas recounts his fascinating life -- as a juvenile delinquent on the streets of Staten Island; as a boxer and Golden Gloves champion under the tutelage of famed trainer Cus D'Amato; as a companion to the dangerous, unpredictable Sammy "the Bull" Gravano, up until the day Gravano turned rat and brought down crime boss John Gotti; and as a trainer of champions and contenders, among them fourteen-year-old Mike Tyson and heavyweight Michael Moorer, whom he led to the crown with a win over Evander Holyfield. Equally engrossing are Teddy Atlas's accounts of training dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp for her successful comeback at age forty-two; his work with actor Willem Dafoe, preparing him for his role as a concentration camp boxer in the film *Triumph of the Spirit*; his journey to Poland to choreograph the film's boxing scenes; and his own performance in movies such as *Play It to the Bone*. In sharing his stories, Atlas reveals the philosophy by which he lives. Like Teddy Atlas -- inimitable, tough, honest, and wise -- this book inspires. It is about so much more than boxing. It is a story of overcoming hardships, of compassion for those in need, of tremendous personal integrity, and of personal and professional triumph.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Harper Paperbacks; Reprint edition (May 8, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060542411

ISBN-13: 978-0060542412

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (95 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #304,688 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Boxing](#) #108 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Boxing](#)

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Richard Arlin (Dick) Stull. Truths about Fathers, Fear, Fighting and Fate Fight-trainer Teddy Atlas

touched on a universal and culturally timely issue in his book, *Atlas: From the Streets to the Ring: A Son's Struggle to Become a Man*. His father was a loved, admired, and respected New York City doctor but, nonetheless, emotionally distant from his family and, in particular, from Teddy, his oldest son, the one who wanted nothing more than his father's approval. To this end, Atlas, who did not grow up on the mean streets, wound up there in his desperate quest to wrestle with fear and the lack of his father's (and his own) approval. Along the way, Atlas chronicles his violent street fights, his terrifying bus ride to Riker's Island, his undeserved second and third chances, and the scar he received in a knife fight, extending from scalp to jaw. The wound, from which he almost bled to death, required 200 stitches on the outside and 200 on the inside. That visible and invisible scar on his face is the central metaphor for Atlas's life - it was, in reality, Atlas's heart that received the 400 stitches that ultimately healed, but was still scarred inside and out. After a number of scrapes with the law and a stay on Riker's Island, Atlas was introduced to boxing's own pugilistic Socrates, Cus D'Amato. D'Amato, who was revered as a trainer and motivator of champions (former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson, for example), became a surrogate father to Atlas. But, like Atlas's own father, D'Amato had his own demons and flaws and, ultimately, was not the ideal Atlas wanted him to be.

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