

Against All Odds My Story

As a young black girl in a low-income, single-parent home, Novica Olinger finds herself in a life filled with obstacles designed to keep her on a statistical road to nowhere. The problem with statistics is most of the time, you don't get to hear the real stories behind that data; or you see negative stories played out on reality talk shows that just cause you to shake a judgmental head. In her own words, Novica gets to tell you her story. As an adult, Novica candidly recounts her struggles with being sexually abused as a child and becoming a teen mother at thirteen years old. This emotionally charged yet inspirational story recounts her journey of healing and determination. For years, she dealt with the lack of self-worth, self-confidence, and self-love until one day, she was captivated by the realization that God loved her. Thinking back over her childhood, Novica writes compelling accounts of supernatural events which revealed God's hand was in every event throughout her life. Discovering her true worth and identity in Christ, Novica decided that she was going to live her life unapologetically and on purpose while uncovering every blessing God has for her. "No matter what is going on in your life, God will move heaven and earth to intervene on your behalf. He loves you that much," (Novica Olinger, Author).

My name is George Lubow, I was born in the small town of Nowogrodek; in what was once Eastern Poland, now Byelorussia. I am a retired businessman and Holocaust survivor. For more than 35 years I was in the dress business. In 1957, I opened my first dress shop in South Pasadena. A year later I opened my second dress shop in Montrose. I met a cross section of the local population. In the process of selling dresses, I listened to many of my customer's problems. In return, I told them my story. They urged me to write a book about my wartime experiences. I started writing in longhand about 25 years ago. My neighbor, Peggy Hardaker offered to type my story. She kept after me to write more. It was painful for me to bring back old memories. But, at the time many letters to the editor of the Los Angeles Times were distorting the truth about the Holocaust. I felt obligated to write this book so future generations would know and remember the horrors. The generation of survivors is passing on. Each of us has a story to tell. We must also remember that in the darkest hour there were Righteous Gentiles who risked their lives to save us. This is my story.

"Deeply wounded in his childhood and struggling to come to terms with failed relationships, Jim Stier wondered if God could ever use a life as fractured as his. Indeed God would use him -- in ways that Jim could never have imagined. Confronted with the opportunity to deny his Savior, Jim surrendered his life, with all of its pain, to God. So began an inspiring journey of struggle, faith, and victory that ultimately led to the lost, hurting people of Brazil and beyond. Against All Odds is a compelling reminder that God restores broken lives and broken dreams. This story of one man's passion to see a nation transformed is a stunning testimony that Christ's grace and mercy can redeem any life surrendered to Him."--Publisher's website.

An inspiring memoir about choices; some good, some not so good. This is the story of an adult's mistakes, poor choices and circumstances that developed into a series of major physical, financial and emotional losses. Her story of triumph shows incredible strength and tenacity, as well as sheer determination to become successful against all odds.

Austyn He was my everything from the first moment I laid eyes on him. He could have asked me to marry him the first month and I would have said yes. I knew he was the one. My knees used to go weak just at the sight of him. No one could have predicted it. That's life I suppose-full of unexpected twists and turns. There were so many times I contemplated walking away, contemplated how much simpler my life would become...but it wasn't that easy. He wasn't easy to walk away from. Avery There was never any doubt in my mind that Austyn was the woman I would be spending the rest of my life with; I just didn't see the point in rushing to the altar if we already knew that. My eyes never wandered, and why would they? She was a modern-day goddess. No one could have prepared me for that day. Had I known, I still believe the outcome would have remained the same. I know it was difficult for her-it would have been difficult for anyone-but she stayed strong for me. I honestly believe she saved me; she saved my life.

Against All Odds is the fifth book and final installment of the Infinite Love series.

'Recording the time as 12.05 am and date as 4 August, musician Moss Hills added calmly: "so I guess we're going down".' In August 1991, excited holiday-makers boarded the Oceanos at East London for the trip of a lifetime. Despite treacherous weather, the captain ordered the ship to set sail for Durban. And so began the ill-fated voyage. Hurricane force winds and giant rogue waves aggravated the hostile storm. Soon the ship started taking water. Panicked senior crew members scrambled into lifeboats leaving the ship's evacuation to the on-board entertainers. At one point, a musician manned the bridge, at another, a magician. Women and children clambered aboard lifeboats which were launched into terrifying seas, leaving their husbands behind, unsure if they would see each other again. After all the operational lifeboats had been utilised, 221 passengers and junior crew were left stranded on the rapidly sinking ship. During this catastrophe the South African Air Force embarked on their biggest air rescue ever, with helicopter crews and Navy divers risking everything to evacuate the remaining passengers. In Against All Odds, maritime lawyer Andrew Pike, who was part of the legal investigation into the Oceanos' sinking, recreates the compelling drama and extraordinary heroism of the greatest maritime rescue in South African history.

Major League Baseball outfielder Charlton Maxwell Jimerson is here to set the record straight. It started going askew in 2001, when Jimerson was named College World Series Most Outstanding Player. Stories surfaced about his tough childhood, and not all the reports were accurate. But now, the man himself tells the inspiring true story of his journey to the Major Leagues in his personal memoir, Against All Odds. A life story that feels like a baseball game-full of starts and stops, climaxes and pauses, ups and downs-Jimerson's memoir is even organized into "nine innings." Beginning with his early childhood, he candidly shares what life was like in a family of five kids, with a mother who struggled with drug dependency and often suffered drug-related violence. He describes his growing love of baseball, sharing how both school and sports offered him positive ways forward. And throughout, he notes the key people and crucial moments in his life that led him to become the successful man he is today. A fascinating insight into life as both a Minor and Major League Baseball player that baseball fans and memoir readers will love, Against All Odds will motivate you to achieve your own dreams. Much more than a baseball story, but a journey into the life of Charlton Jimerson

It had been years since I had seen any of the children with whom I had grown up. When I left the children's home, I promised myself that I would have nothing to do with them, I was sure that my only chance of living a good life would be to put the past behind me, even though that meant saying goodbye to some of the people I loved the most - as well as the ones I hated...it turned out that six of us had died, several by slow suicide in the form of heroin abuse, and at least two by faster means. When two police officers arrived out of the blue at Paul Connolly's door, he learned the shocking news that, out of the eight children with whom he shared a dormitory in care, only two were still alive. The revelation unearthed painful memories of a childhood that, until this point, Paul had tried desperately to put behind him. Abandoned at two weeks old, Paul came of age in the infamous St Leonards's Children's Home in East London. The children there were routinely abused, often over the course of many years. All were underfed and unloved and told that they would amount to nothing. Angry and frustrated, Paul channelled his rage into boxing - but when an accident shattered his ambition to turn professional, he found his true calling and became a successful trainer, even working as a consultant on the pilot of a top model's fitness video. Paul has finally found peace and fulfilment beyond anything he could have imagined all those years ago. He has found happiness with his wife and children and now helps to heal broken bodies, build confidence and transform lives - but he will never forget his past and the unnecessary victims of broken society...

You never know how strong you are until you rouse the champion in you! Against All Odds chronicles the real-life stories of men and women who conquered personal and societal limitations to achieve the seemingly impossible. In Against All Odds, you'll discover, among other riveting narratives, how * George Carver overcame chronic disease, deprivation, and discrimination to become a remarkable scientist and renowned inventor; * Elizabeth Blackwell rose above gender bias and fierce opposition to become the first woman to earn a degree in medicine; * Abraham Lincoln became a celebrated lawyer, legislator, and president despite his prolonged battle with depression, defeat, and distress; * Fanny Crosby, the blind girl from a backwater town, became the most prolific hymn writer in history; * Harriet Tubman overcame the horrors of a turbulent and traumatic childhood to liberate herself from the bondage of slavery and helped to rescue many other slaves from the captivity of their cruel masters; and * Ben Carson successfully battled mediocrity and low self-esteem to change his reputation from being the "dumbest student" in the class to being one of the most brilliant doctors in the world.

The Story of My Life is an autobiography by Helen Keller. It is the story of Helen Keller and her life as a deaf and blind girl, and her triumph over these tribulations. In the book, she reveals her frustration and rage over her condition. It details her educational achievements and her introduction to the world through her breakthrough into communication. The story was written by Helen Keller when she was just 22 years old. The Story of My Life is a tale of the courage and unbreakable will of Helen Keller. The book has been adapted into a television series, a Broadway play, a Hollywood feature film, and an Indian feature film.

"A rare and riveting first-hand account of the terror and torture inflicted by ISIS on young Iraqi Yazidi women, and an inspiring personal story of bravery and resilience in the face of unspeakable horrors. In the early summer of 2014, Farida Khalaf was a typical Yazidi teenager living with her parents and three brothers in her village in the mountains of Northern Iraq. In one horrific day, she lost everything: ISIS invaded her village, destroyed her family, and sold her into sexual slavery. The Girl Who Escaped ISIS is her incredible account of captivity and describes how she defied the odds and escaped a life of torture, in order to share her story with the world. Devastating and inspiring, this is an astonishing, intimate account of courage and hope in the face of appalling violence"--

Against All OddsMy StoryB&H Publishing Group

John is a young dude from the streets of Memphis. All he wanted to do was get his hustle on, stay fly and make beats. But in the process he hooked up with an older chick by the name of Sheree who was fly sophisticated, and mature. She was everything he wasn't. But somehow they still managed to get together. Her trials and his tribulations happened to be the recipe to a beautiful hood love story. It was hard holding him down but even in the hardest times Sheree made it look easy. Against All Odds.

In this memorable book, Adarsh chronicles the unique history of these schools as they unfolded. He shows how the children (boys and girls) got an opportunity of a lifetime in achieving an education that they would never have acquired; then, they went on to become even more successful in the pursuits of careers and other opportunities that they never would have dreamed possible. Adarsh is able to bring to light a perspective to the cherished legacy that enshrined the history of these schools. Within these pages, it is truly remarkable to behold that given the opportunities for success and the guiding hand of support and encouragement lives are changed and legacies are born.

USA TODAY Bestselling Author Claudia Burgoa presents an engaging love story full of mistaken identity, drunk texts, and hysterical mishaps. Sex talk is my job. I'm an influencer. I run a popular blog where I give all kinds of dating tips, and girls all over the world thank me for helping them with their love lives. I wish I could follow my own advice because my love life is totally dead. I just drunk texted my ex-boyfriend... except, I didn't. That text ended up going to someone else. Oops. This new relationship is almost picture-perfect, just like my online life. I guess I give good...text. He doesn't have to put up with my colorful personality--as my hot next-door neighbor describes me. Or my messy schedule. This long-distance relationship is the best thing that's happened to me and I plan to keep it that way. Until we agree to meet up, and I'm freaking out. When he meets the real me, will he hate me forever? Or will we be one day telling our grandkids about that wrong text, right love? *** Wrong Text, Right Love is a cute rom-com of two secret lovers who prepare to risk it all for love. Claudia Burgoa brings the flirty fun in this cozy novel of risking it all for romance.

The Chairman of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., Inc. presents the remarkable history of the most efficient, most profitable automobile maker in the world and its revolutionary "just-in-time" production process, accompanied by sixteen pages of photographs.

Charley: Thank you for allowing me to read the manuscript for your book. I find it one of them you cant put down until you've finished it. Having grown up in the same time frame, and experiencing the same working conditions, and being made to feel like an outsider, left a scar that has yet to heal. I have managed to leave that all behind as the love we shared within our family tree helped soothe the name calling. We were poor, yet we were rich and remain to this day in what we endured and shared in those early days. I would not change any of it except perhaps the load our parents carried. They instilled in us a sold work ethic and the desire to better ourselves, since this was their main objective. It is a testament to them that all their children went on to life outside the cycle of migrant field hands. Your book will take us back in time and relive the days of our youth, and for others give them a glimpse of time gone by. In His Love, Lloyd Medina

This memoir is a story of Harvey Smith starting at the age of five having been injured in a truck accident and was thought to have died, but he survived. The injury created serious problems for Harvey as he tried to live a normal life even though the accident stunted his growth and created learning disabilities for him. This is a story of how Harvey faced several near death experiences, survived it all, and went on to achieve his dream of earning a college degree even though all the odds were stacked against him. This is a story of family life, romance, comedy, trials and tribulations, and an ending victory.

"Powerful and affecting. Hillary is an indomitable force." — Dean Karnazes In 2017, world-class ultrarunner Hillary Allen was at the top of her sport--and it felt like she was running on top of the

world as she competed in Norway's Tromsø Skyrace. Allen was nearly halfway through the 50-kilometer race when she fell 150 feet off an exposed ridge, fracturing her back and breaking multiple ribs, both feet, and both of her lower arms. Beginning with the dramatic story of her accident and rescue, *Out and Back: A Runner's Story of Survival Against All Odds* recounts Allen's fight to return to the life she loves. With vulnerability that reveals remarkable strength and introspection that yields wisdom, Allen shares the story of her recovery both physically and mentally, and hard-earned knowledge that the path forward is not always linear, that healing takes time, and that the process of rediscovery is ongoing as she learns what it takes to survive--and thrive. *Out and Back* is an inspiration to anyone who knows what it means to reclaim and rebuild your life, one day and one step at a time.

Tell Me You're Sorry, Daddy is the moving true story of one man's horrific campaign of abuse against his own daughter, which continued for more than seven years of her childhood, and has had effects which continue to this day. 32 years after the abuse began, Caryn Walker finally saw her father in court in 2011, charged with 24 counts of abuse against her. As she awaited the verdict, she looked at the man who robbed her of so many years, who never showed any remorse, and realised that she was the one who was strong, she was the survivor. Caryn knew that it was time for her to tell her full story - and that of her dead sister, Jennifer. Against all the odds, she fought. And she won.

A New York Times best seller. Millions of people worldwide know Chuck Norris as the star of more than twenty motion pictures, a martial arts expert, and the only man in the Western Hemisphere to hold an eighth degree Black Belt Grand Master in Tae Kwon Do. Countless others see him daily in syndicated reruns as the hero of the longest running CBS series to date, "Walker, Texas Ranger." What many don't know is that Chuck Norris is a sincere Christian—a man whose faith plays a role in everything he does. *Against All Odds* is the inspirational story of how Norris overcame abject poverty from childhood, the effects of his father's alcoholism and desertion of the family, and his own shyness and lack of strength and ability early in his life. Norris writes candidly about the past and gives God full credit for where he is today.

When Siya Kolisi leads the Springboks out onto the field at the Rugby World Cup in September 2019, it will be the crowning glory of an incredible journey that began on the impoverished streets of Zwide, a township outside Port Elizabeth. As the first black South African to captain a Springbok rugby team, Kolisi's remarkable story is unique and deserves to be heard. His mother was a teenager when he was born. She left him in the care of his grandmother who brought him up until she died (in his arms) when Siya was twelve. He found love and acceptance playing junior rugby with the African Bombers club until his talent was spotted by the prestigious Grey High School who offered Siya a full scholarship that changed his life. He adapted well to the posh private school, but it was on the rugby field where he excelled. Siya was rewarded with a call-up the SA schools team and a contract to join the Western Province rugby union. Author Jeremy Daniel tracks Siya's journey from running wild on the streets of Zwide, through some crucial games in high school, into the Western Province rugby set-up and his fight to become Springbok captain. He goes deep inside the systems that identify junior talent, the characters who shaped his journey and the moments where he showed who he really was. Siya never forgot where he came from, and ultimately adopted his mother's other two children after she died when he was in high school. His life has not been without controversy, and his marriage to a fiery young white woman was a lightning rod for racial politics. But he is a shining beacon of hope for South Africa, he is massively popular and there is a huge appetite from the public to know about his life and to support him as Springbok captain.

Against All Odds: When Faith Is All You Have follows one woman's journey to truth, seeking to live through the Word of God. Walking in faith through life and all of its circumstances can be a difficult journey at times. The theme of this book is the stability of God's love and faithfulness in every situation and experience. Whether in times of joy or tears, the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ remains the same. This book will stir your spirit to seek God for a more powerful life by living in His peace. "Marcia M. Thomas does an excellent job of conveying the beauty of God's grace. As she transparently shares her story, the faithfulness of God, through the good and bad times, is seen over and over again. This book consistently reminds me that the unconditional love God has for us is real." Kendolyn Walker- Editor Marcia M. Thomas was born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, West Indies. She migrated to the United States with her siblings in November 1971, to join her parents. Marcia is a single mom currently living in Brooklyn, New York. She has three adult children and one teenager. She loves to sing, dance and use her acting skills to tell others about God's love. Marcia loves the Lord and is a firm believer that through prayer and trusting God's Word, nothing is impossible!

Over the past year homegrown hip-hop sensation N-Dubz have morphed from an underground phenomenon to a commercial monster. Take a trip inside the N-Dubz world of catchy lyrics, street smart style and funky beats and discover the real story of the band everyone's talking.

While sitting up in bed, I felt a pounding headache. It was like a drum beating from afar and progressively getting nearer until I blacked out. I did not know what happened next. Later, I heard a fellow patient-who became my neighbor after David left-started shouting out, "Nurse! Nurse!" Author Keith Tucker tells his amazing story of the Lord's miraculous victories in his life after a devastating accident that changed the course of his life as a young man in his early twenties. Keith's vivid life journey demonstrates that the Lord never leaves or forsakes us in the darkest times of our lives and encourages God's people to remain faithful and prayerful in any dark seasons.

She thought, brightly, This is the worst life decision I have ever made! And she marvelled at herself for a while, at the mystery of this person who'd just done this bizarre, inexplicable thing. Margot meets Robert. They exchange numbers. They text, flirt and eventually have sex – the type of sex you attempt to forget. How could one date go so wrong? Everything that takes place in *Cat Person* happens to countless people every day. But *Cat Person* is not an everyday story. In less than a week, Kristen Roupenian's New Yorker debut became the most read and shared short story in their website's history. This is the bad date that went viral. This is the conversation we're all having. This gift edition contains photographs by celebrated photographer Elinor Carucci, who was commissioned by the New Yorker to capture the image that accompanied Kristen Roupenian's *Cat Person* when it appeared in the magazine. You Know You Want This, Kristen Roupenian's debut collection, will be published in February 2019.

Upon completion of basic training at Camp Wolters Texas Infantry Replacement Training Center, the author shipped overseas to the European Theater of Operations. After a rough crossing of the English Channel and passing through several replacement depots, he was assigned to an infantry line company. The unit, severely decimated by

casualties, was currently engaged in the bloody battle of Hurtgen Forrest. Though trained as a rifleman, he volunteered to be a light machine gunner, though he knew that the automatic weapons of the company were a prime target for enemy gunners. He was also aware that the life expectancy of a machine gunner was considerably shorter than that of a rifleman. However, when the company commander made it clear that someone had to be a machine gunner and, since no one else volunteered, the author reluctantly laid down his trusty M-1 rifle and filled the vacancy. During the balance of the conflict, the author raised the average life of a light machine gunner considerably. Though he was a late combat arrival, he earned three campaign stars and beat all the odds when, by the end of the war, they had not yet fired the bullet with his name on it.

Tyree's book is an inspirational story of setbacks and how to persevere to overcome them. In the exciting and highly competitive field of track and field, Tyree was able to stand out as a dedicated athlete who always stood for the right.

'AGAINST ALL ODDS' is an inspiring story of my father's journey from reproach, to redemption, to restoration. It provides hope and inspiration for every man, woman and child wounded by circumstance.

Foreword by Janet Yellen Weijian Shan's *Out of the Gobi* is a powerful memoir and commentary that will be one of the most important books on China of our time, one with the potential to re-shape how Americans view China, and how the Chinese view life in America. Shan, a former hard laborer who is now one of Asia's best-known financiers, is thoughtful, observant, eloquent, and brutally honest, making him well-positioned to tell the story of a life that is a microcosm of modern China, and of how, improbably, that life became intertwined with America. *Out of the Gobi* draws a vivid picture of the raw human energy and the will to succeed against all odds. Shan only finished elementary school when Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution tore his country apart. He was a witness to the brutality and absurdity of Mao's policies during one of the most tumultuous eras in China's history. Exiled to the Gobi Desert at age 15 and denied schooling for 10 years, he endured untold hardships without ever giving up his dream for an education. Shan's improbable journey, from the Gobi to the "People's Republic of Berkeley" and far beyond, is a uniquely American success story – told with a splash of humor, deep insight and rich and engaging detail. This powerful and personal perspective on China and America will inform Americans' view of China, humanizing the country, while providing a rare view of America from the prism of a keen foreign observer who lived the American dream. Says former Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen: "Shan's life provides a demonstration of what is possible when China and the United States come together, even by happenstance. It is not only Shan's personal history that makes this book so interesting but also how the stories of China and America merge in just one moment in time to create an inspired individual so unique and driven, and so representative of the true spirits of both countries."

?Against All Odds: Artist Dean Mitchell's Story is a biography of a small-town southern boy who grew up in a time and culture where his artistic talents were not appreciated..

Dean's grandmother, Marie Mitchell took on the task to raise the frail infant grandson from the age of eleven months, even though she was caregiver for her aged mother at the same time. Raised in poverty, Dean began working on tobacco farms as a young boy in order to help his family make ends meet. The family was often short of basic necessities and the small monthly welfare check his grandmother received was their largest source of income to take care of the boy she often called her precious gift. Read the epic of how Dean survived hard times and numerous obstacles that confronted him along the way to becoming an accomplished artist. His love for art and the encouragement of a loving grandmother inspired and motivated Dean to overcome these limitations as well as the career expectations of family and peers. Share episodes of fear and frustration in gaining acceptance for the art he wanted to depict along with the exhilaration and satisfaction when finally winning national acclaim for his artistic creations. This book portrays a story of determination, inspiration and dedication exhibited by a young man who would not accept the limitations of others in his pursuit of becoming an accomplished artist.

Against All Odds is the incredible true story of combat, love and heroism in World War II. It follows Ray Firmani, who enlisted in the Army, earned his wings and won the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary heroism.

For readers of *The Boys in the Boat*, the remarkable story of the unlikely Canadian hockey team that clinched Olympic gold in 1948 The announcement was shocking—Canada, the birthplace of hockey, would not be sending a team to the 1948 Winter Olympics in Switzerland. Outraged, a Royal Canadian Air Force squadron leader, Sandy Watson, quickly assembled a team of air force hockey players who were "amateur enough" to complete under the Olympic guidelines. Sergeant Frank Boucher was recruited to coach the team and begin the cross-Canada search for players. Hubert Brooks, a decorated flying officer and serial escapist from POW camps, was another early recruit. Andy Gilpin joined from the RCAF base in Whitehorse, as did airmen from Quebec, the Maritimes and western Canada. And when their starting goalie, Dick Ball, didn't pass a medical exam, Murray Dowey was called up from his job as a TTC driver and occasional practice goalie for the Toronto Maple Leafs. The ragtag team got off to a rough start, losing so many exhibition games that Canadian newspapers called them a disgrace to the country. But the RCAF Flyers battled back, and Boucher's defensive strategy paid off. They eliminated the American team, tied the Czech team and beat the Swiss as the hometown crowd pelted the Canadians with snowballs during the game. On the same ice where Barbara Ann Scott won a gold medal, the underdog RCAF Flyers also won Olympic gold, and their goalie, Murray Dowey, set an Olympic record that still stands. Against All Odds is the inspiring untold story of a group of determined men, fresh from the battlefields of WWII, who surprised a nation and the world.

Against All Odds traces the hardships and ultimate redemption of "the other #22," Donnie Hixon, as he journeys from a childhood of hard knocks in the Harrisburg neighborhood of Augusta, Georgia, to Hollywood, USA. Hixon's unlikely role as stunt double for Burt Reynolds in 1974's *The Longest Yard* rights a series of life-altering setbacks as a youngster. Author of *The Augusta National Golf Club*; Alister MacKenzie's *Masterpiece*, Stan Byrde deftly weaves this heartbreaking, heroic, and oftentimes humorous tale of Hixon's life, interspersed with an ample dose of Augusta history. Movie icon Burt Reynolds, Green Bay Packer legend Ray Nitschke, The Godfather of Soul James Brown, the Augusta Riots of 1970, and alleged cover-ups in a small-town

police department all play starring roles in this true to life, made-for-Hollywood script. You will ache with each resounding setback and cheer Donnie's persistence to achieve in the face of adversity. His enduring friendship with Burt Reynolds coupled with an insider's stories and pictures of NFL and movie greats on location at Reidsville prison in south Georgia during the fall of 1973 make this a must-read book for film, football, and history enthusiasts alike.

This book is for anyone who wants better for themselves. The stories in this book are real situations from my life. Good and bad, it made me who I am. It's my hope that you find yourself in these stories and know you're not alone. Depression, anxiety, and PTSD are real things. I don't have all the answers (hell, I'm still working on me daily), and I can't promise this book will "fix you" or make you happy. But I do hope my story inspires you to keep going-your life matters Against All Odds.

Danielle Steel proves she is the world's favourite storyteller with Against All Odds, a powerful story of a mother's unconditional love. Style. Success. Secrets. Kate Madison's stylish boutique has been a big success in New York, supporting her and her four kids since her husband's untimely death. Now, her children have grown up and are ready to forge lives of their own. Isabelle, a dedicated attorney, falls for a client in a criminal case. She tells herself she can make a life with him – but can she? Julie, a young designer, meets a man who seems too good to be true. She gives up her job and moves to LA to be at his side, ignoring the danger signs. Justin is a struggling writer who pushes his partner for children before they're financially or emotionally ready. And Willie, the youngest, makes a choice that shocks them all . . . For Kate – loving, supportive and outspoken – the hardest lesson will be that she can't protect her children from their choices, but can only love them as they make them.

Ride lays bare the harrowing beginnings and the tough life lessons learned by superstar John Bultjens on his rise to BMX glory. Raised by his poor family in Glasgow, he slept rough to escape his father's beatings. Placed in a children's home, he adopted by a bi-racial couple. After conquering his own racism, his life turned around, and the movie E.T. inspired a love of BMX. John's emigration to Australia saw him becoming one of BMX's biggest names. Then came the call from California to lead the most famous BMX brand, Haro. Now their global brand manager, he backs and sponsors riders across the globe. Hollywood has turned his unbelievable journey into a movie. Here, John reveals inner secrets including murders, hatred, sexual abuse-and how his white-knuckle ride has taken him to the top against all the odds.

Filmmakers of the Pacific Rim have been delivering punches and flying kicks to the Hollywood movie industry for years. This book explores the ways in which the storytelling and cinematic techniques of Asian popular culture have migrated from grainy, low-budget martial arts movies to box-office blockbusters such as The Magnificent Seven, Star Wars, The Matrix and Transformers. While special effects gained prominence, the raw and gritty power of live combat emerged as an audience favorite, spawning Asian stars Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan and martial arts-trained stars Chuck Norris and Steven Seagal. As well as capturing the sheer onscreen adrenaline rush that characterizes the films discussed, this work explores the impact of violent cinematic entertainment and why it is often misunderstood. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

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