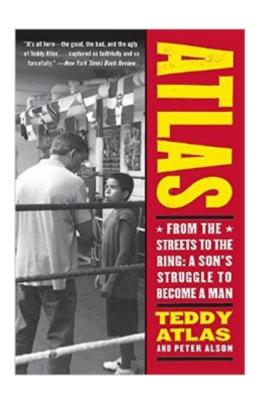
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Atlas: From The Streets To The Ring: A Son's Struggle To Become A Man





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.

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touched on a universal andculturally timely issue in his book, Atlas: From theStreets to the Ring: A Son's Struggle to Become aMan. His father was a loved, admired, and respectedNew York City doctor but, nonetheless, emotionallydistant from his family and, in particular, fromTeddy, his oldest son, the one who wanted nothing morethan his father's approval. To this end, Atlas, who did not grow up on the meanstreets, wound up there in his desperate quest towrestle with fear and the lack of his father's (andhis own) approval. Along the way, Atlas chronicleshis violent street fights, his terrifying bus ride toRiker's Island, his undeserved second and thirdchances, and the scar he received in a knife fight, extending from scalp to jaw. The wound, from which healmost bled to death, required 200 stitches on theoutside and 200 on the inside. That visible andinvisible scar on his face is the central metaphor forAtlas's life - it was, in reality, Atlas's heart thatreceived the 400 stitches that ultimately healed, butwas still scarred inside and out. After a number of scrapes with the law and a stay onRiker's Island, Atlas was introduced to boxing's ownpugilistic Socrates, Cus D'Amato. D'Amato, who wasrevered as a trainer and motivator of champions (former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson, forexample), became a surrogate father to Atlas. But, like Atlas's own father, D'Amato had his own demonsand flaws and, ultimately, was not the ideal Atlaswanted him to be.

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