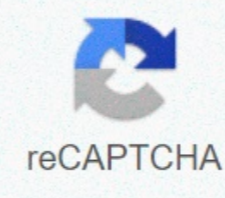




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## Professional idiot a memoir review

So Steve-O!!!! A larger-than-life personality (along with his larger-than-life tattoo of his own face on his back). A guy most people knew as someone who makes a living from being kicked into balls, provoking dangerous animals, dragging beer through his ass, tattoos and any number of other stunts on his face. On the surface of all that a memoir in his story looks a little thin, more of a quick money grab before 'jackass fame' disappears forever, and that's almost how I looked at the book before picking it up and reading it. As a partial admirer of the TV show and films of the teenage days I thought there would be little to gain in reading about what happened behind the scenes or the life story of the man who was beaten, tasered, bitten or assaulted; but, like most times, I was wrong. Happily the book delivers far more than it promises on the surface. In this book Steve-O almost goes on a play of the important and fundamental aspects of the building block of his life as a boy, during the early years, during the Jackass years and the couple of recent years. What I really liked about the book was how much of a straight shooter Steve-O came across as much in his storytelling story and in his stories. There is no real crap, no evidence of making or expanding history for commercial appeal, or trying to fluff up the story to turn it into a book, just a direct account of the good, the bad and the inevitably ugly. For those who have encountered Steve-O before most of the book won't surprise you, there are plenty of drugs, lots of lewd acts, piles of moneyless skin and lots of personal demons that follow him around him. What is surprising is the arc of his story throughout this, the single-minded approach he had in pursuing his dream of being a clown/animato and the re-birth/re-creation of himself that he has experienced in recent years (These days a sober, vegan, comedian who still honors his own personality and style). Despite the light-hearted antics of its history and humorous writing style, a lot of the story is rather daunting. Not only the events of his life, but the honesty in which he recounts the facts, and without compromise explains how disorderly he knew himself at the time while looking back. He does not try to justify his actions or path, he only explains what was going on in his head at all times, what his life looked like and how with the passage of time, he can see the failures or, sometimes, the endearing aspects of these accounts. They dig it up, most memoirs have a sense of heroism or narcissism (I guess the process of writing about yourself for a new piece of length brings this in most people), but not this one. Surprisingly (or perhaps not considering that it was written by someone who in the last 20 years has lived crazy and and and roundabout life) there are plenty of real seeds of wisdom here. If knowledge speaks and wisdom listens, then Steve-O's book is talking about some hardcore knowledge gained from experience. Whoever you are and whatever you do with your life I think hearing your story could provide a seed or two of wisdom for you. Most surprisingly of all, the part of the book I thought would be the most interesting and intense (the 6-8 years of jackass stunts and shenanigans) turned out to be, in my opinion, the most flagrantly unspiring and boring part (luckily you don't spend too much time on it). The accumulation of what got him there is beastly and the low, hard truths and progress he has made since hit me as very inspiring and open. At the end of the day there is something inherently friendly with Steve-O; either on the screen or in his words in this book. Whatever he's doing, whether it's a crazy trick, hurting himself, degrading others/degrading himself, talking about his recovery. It's all very nice, not many others could get away with the things you've done and the person you've been in such a nice way. This is what I had left after reading the book, a pleasant impression after a whirlwind story of an hectic 30-odd years of life. Steve-O Professional Idiot: A Memoir from the Book... From its early days recorded crazy skateboard stunts to starring in the Jackass films, there was little Stephen Steve-O Glover wouldn't do. Whether he was stinging his backpack on his leg or diving into a pool full of elephant shit, almost nothing was out of bounds. As the stunts became more insanity, his life remained in place. He developed an overwhelming addiction to drugs and alcohol, and an obsession with his own celebrity that proved almost as dangerous. Only an intervention and a visit to a psychiatric ward saved his life. Today it has been clean and sober for over three years. Professional Idiot recounts lunarity, debauchery, acrobatics, drug addiction, and the road to recovery with bravado, humour and heart. Steve-O is someone we've all seen do the stupid, painful and downright dangerous things no one else would do in Jackass. professional was a great book, although it was a bit harsh, too. In this review I would like to talk about the subject, the people, and the Steve-O Professional scene. Even though I knew Steve-O must have been messed up a bit, I never knew about all the things that had happened when I was a kid, teenager, and then as an adult. It was as if he were the protagonist and the world himself was the antagonist. I would say that throughout the professional idiot it was obvious that drugs played an important role in the life of and that did not exactly have a positive effect on him. Throughout his life he has encountered so many problems, drugs have always played some role in it. Per Per when Steve-O was just a young man with a friend after being paid to try drugs. His need to get high was so strong that he was scammed by what he thought was a friend, this friend got a few more guys, and beat the rest of his money from him. Not to mention the countless times he urinated on his former girlfriend's bed after crashing out of weed dough and beer. Plain and simple, drugs are bad and we all know it. Even when he got older drugs he played an important role in his life. They even almost got Steve-O to self-seed with some crazy stunt. If it hadn't been for the people who cared about him, I probably wouldn't be here now. Steve-O had a life that was somewhere between big and just horrible. While his father, Ted Glover, worked as a businessman who travelled a lot and was able to keep them living pretty well, Steve-O and his older sister Cindy stayed with their mother who, like most of her family did, drank quite a lot. At one point, his mother lied, saying he had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma just to hide that he was drunk all the time. I guess he participated in Steve-O going in to drink. People like his friend Bill Schnell didn't help either when he got older and moved in with him. Bill went on to live right in front of a shop selling beer. This was a pattern, the people Steve-O hung with all the stoners or alcoholics. On Steve-O's travels, he went to so many places. He was born in London, but this did not last long like countless times in his life. Since they moved to a lot he experienced so much, as when they lived in Rio de Janeiro and actually learned to be fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Things weren't always as big as this, however, as when Steve-O had to learn how to survive the tough streets of Austin, Texas, as a homeless man with only his friends Jamie Haselton and Devon Murelli. At that time they may have been the best influence on his life at this point other than his family, whom he hadn't spoken to in a long time. In short, the professional idiot was a great book; although, I wouldn't suggest this book to younger readers. This book is best for the minds of older teens and adults because of the drug use in it and some inappropriate material and language. However, it was a great book that I obviously recommend to a larger audience. If read, the professional idiot will give the reader a nice laugh and a glimpse into the life of good of Steve-O, or, Stephen Glover. © 1996-2014, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates Since its early days videotaping crazy skateboard stunts to star in the Jackass films, there was little that Steve-O Glover wouldn't. Whether he was stinging his backpack on his leg or diving into a pool full of elephant shit, almost nothing was out of bounds. As the stunts got mader, his life kept pace. He developed an addiction to drug drugs alcohol, and an obsession with his own celebrity that proved almost as dangerous. Only an intervention and a visit to a psychiatric ward saved his life. Today it has been clean and sober for over three years. Professional Idiot recounts lunarity, debauchery, acrobatics, drug addiction, and the road to recovery with bravado, humour and heart. It's amazing to me how completely far away Steve-O was, and how he looks back on it in this book with such intelligence, humor and honesty. What a truly amazing life. - Johnny KnoxvilleA great book to read before you get to the roller coaster in hell, if you plan to survive to explain it as Steve-O did. Nikki Sixx, author of The Heroin Diaries:This is the perfect book for people who hate reading. —Tommy Lee, author of TommylandThe feedback I received on Facebook and Twitter from those who have read this book has been fascinating, encouraging and fun. I am happy to continue answering your questions there, and I encourage more of you to join the discussion. We look forward to hear from you soon, and thank you all very much. Love, Steve-O ISBN-13: 9781401310790 Editor: Hachette Books Publication date: 01/17/2012 Pages: 336 Sales range: \$3,040 Product dimensions: 5.84(w) x 9.04(h) x 0.88(d) Age range: 18 - 12 years raised by an alcoholic mother and a caring but often absent father, Stephen Steve-O Glover was an imaginative child with a serious need for attention. He fueled this need by performing dangerous skateboarding stunts that he filmed and often showed anyone willing to watch. In this honest and often graphic memoir, Glover details how this hobby became a career when he teamed up with the producers of the dangerous stunt show Jackass. The success of the show provided Glover with the fame he desired, but also allowed him to enjoy drugs and alcohol with wild abandon. Glover explains how he often stayed awake for days, trapped in an ever-changing cocktail of substances. While Glover comes 6 as a sweet person and represents his descent into the depths of candor drug abuse, he shows surprisingly little remorse about his drug use. Although in the end there is a note of redemption—he has been able to maintain sobriety and has even become vegan—the focus here is more on the stunts, wild stories and drug abuse that brought him there and which Jackass fans expect. (June) Publishers Weekly It's amazing to me how completely far away Steve-O was, and how he looks back at it in this book with so much intelligence, humor, and honesty. What a truly amazing life. —Johnny KnoxvilleA great book to read before you get to the mountain in hell, if you plan to survive to explain it like Steve-O did. Nikki Sixx, author of The Heroin Diaries:This is the perfect book for people who hate reading. —Tommy Lee, author of Tommyland Tommyland the publishing house This is the perfect book for people who hate reading. Tommy Lee A great book to read before you get to the roller coaster in hell, if you plan to survive to explain it like Steve-O did. Nikki Sixx It's amazing to me how completely far away Steve-O was, and how she looks back at him in this book with so much intelligence, humor, and honesty. What a truly amazing life. John Salvat-Papasso

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