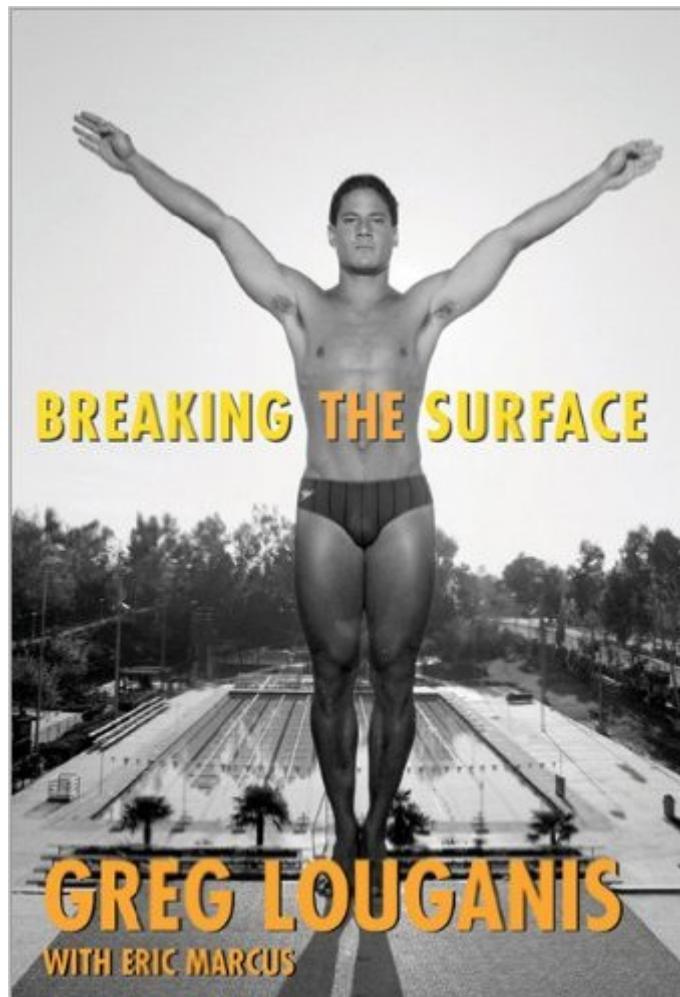


The book was found

Breaking The Surface



Synopsis

This is a new edition of Greg Louganis's 1995 #1 New York Times bestselling autobiography and Literary Guild Selection. It is the unflinchingly honest first-person account of a man breaking free of a lifetime of silence and isolation. Born to a young Samoan father and Northern European mother, and adopted at nine months, Greg began diving at age nine, and at sixteen won a silver medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. But despite his astonishing athletic skill, Greg struggled with late-detected dyslexia, prejudice toward his dark skin coloring and anguish over his homosexuality, which he felt compelled to hide. Being in the spotlight intensified his difficulties with relationships and substance abuse. However, Louganis went on to win double gold medals at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics. His triumph at the 1988 Olympics came several months after he tested positive for HIV. This is the haunting, searingly candid story of the world's greatest diver. This new edition includes a new foreword.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (89 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #523,469 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Gay #149 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Olympic Games #169 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports > Swimming

Customer Reviews

Greg Louganis captured our hearts, minds and the spirit of the American dream in his quest for Olympic Gold. Over his many years in competition no one knew the anguish he suffered stemming from years of self doubt and recrimination. Diving became his way of expression. His quest for perfection, born from the burning desire to shout out to the world that he was never less than his fellows, was riddled with self loathing for the secrets he held so close. Each time he towered high above us on the boards or the platform he had the ability to block out all else but the dive he was about to attempt. He was never less than poetry in motion. He seemed perfect in every way.

Understated and humble, this very handsome, extraordinarily built and sculpted figure of a young man thrilled us every moment he was in our sights and we cheered him, urged him and all but willed him to greatness. Such was our love of him and such was our awe of his abilities. There came a day, as it comes for all athletes, when the Olympic competition we were watching would be his last. It was 1988 and as he prepared for the preliminary dive and jettisoned himself from that board, we heard the dreadful sound that would shake the Olympic world to its very foundations and would cut Greg Louganis open to his very core. The wound to his head was not a large one in size but the scope of that injury would cause his life to begin to unravel as the eyes of the world were upon him. We breathed a sigh of relief when we were informed that he was sufficiently recovered to continue the competition. His scores plummeted as a result of that terrible encounter with the board but at least he survived it. No one expected him to win the competition and it would be the last time we would ever watch him compete.

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