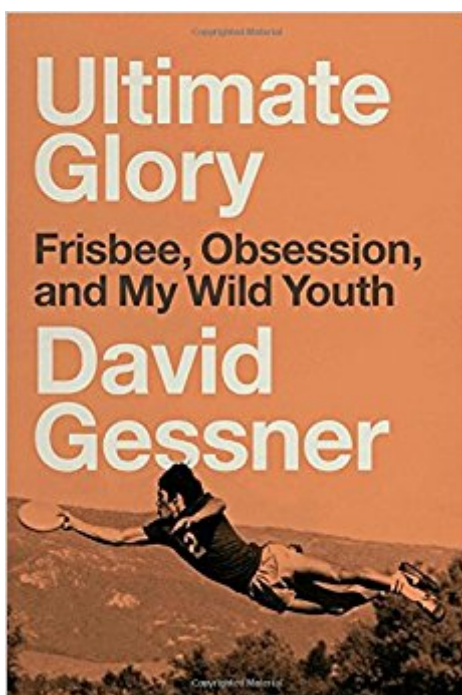


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Ultimate Glory: Frisbee, Obsession, And My Wild Youth



Synopsis

A story of obsession, glory, and the wild early days of Ultimate Frisbee. David Gessner devoted his twenties to a cultish sport called Ultimate Frisbee. Like his teammates and rivals, he trained for countless hours, sacrificing his body and potential career for a chance at fleeting glory without fortune or fame. His only goal: to win Nationals and go down in Ultimate history as one of the greatest athletes no one has ever heard of. With humor and raw honesty, Gessner explores what it means to devote one's life to something that many consider ridiculous. Today, Ultimate is played by millions, but in the 1980s, it was an obscure sport with a (mostly) undeserved stoner reputation. Its early heroes were as scrappy as the sport they loved, driven by fierce competition, intense rivalries, epic parties, and the noble ideals of the Spirit of the Game. *Ultimate Glory* is a portrait of the artist as a young ruffian. Gessner shares the field and his seemingly insane obsession with a cast of closely knit, larger-than-life characters. As his sport grows up, so does he, and eventually he gives up chasing flying discs to pursue a career as a writer. But he never forgets his love for this misunderstood sport and the rare sense of purpose he attained as a member of its priesthood.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A] lively and honest coming-of-age story. . . . An exploration of the questing desires of the young heart, *Ultimate Glory* should be recommended reading for every college student. A 20-something, unsure whether to listen to the yearnings of the soul, might find answers in Gessner's chase of a flying plastic disc." ---The Washington Post "A moving memoir [that]

celebrates the human ability to get obsessed—in this case, with Frisbee." —The Wall Street Journal

"The history of Ultimate Frisbee had not yet been written by one who was there, there for the ugly, early, drunken days when men first turned to themselves and one another and asked whether a modified form of football could be played using flying discs, and answered, 'Yes!' or didn't answer, just started playing it, running and drinking and diving. Gessner has come for the game that made him great. Read it." —John Jeremiah Sullivan, author of *Pulphhead*

"An important contribution to the history of Ultimate—not a 'hippie-dippie' activity but an exciting sport requiring tremendous athleticism worthy of respect." —Booklist

"Gessner's enthusiasm is unmistakable, and there's much to commend the story as a case in point of how a kid, once finding his or her medium, can make of a pastime a life-transforming experience." —Kirkus Reviews

"Gessner reflects with honesty and humor on his dedication to the sport of Ultimate Frisbee. . . [He] remains entertainingly unrepentant about a decade spent in the throes of a game that itself was evolving beyond its carefree image. Gessner nicely captures the persistent pursuit of greatness in the face of doubt and failure." —Publishers Weekly

"In *Ultimate Glory*, Gessner flings out not only a requiem and a eulogy to a golden era of beginnings that has since passed, but also offers up a trumpet blast in celebration of a game that has somehow remained, against all odds and despite the tendency of almost everything else, uncorrupted by its success and untainted by its mainstream adoption while continuing to offer up a fierce and shining testament to the spirits of those, like Gessner, who gave the better parts of their youth over to its glory." —Kevin Fedarko, author of *The Emerald Mile*

"*Ultimate Glory* is a book of wild youth, of derring-do . . . it lifts us up into glory's heights. Gessner is a compelling guide to the scenes of ancient battles, knows where all the blood has been spilled, knows a thing or two about greatness and how it fades, but in that, too, there is glory, and this is a book to lift us up into glory's heights. Funny, fraught, deep, fascinating, so much more than you thought: finally the game of Ultimate has its Jim Bouton, its George Plimpton, its Bill Bradley." —Bill Roorbach, author of *Life Among Giants*

"In *Ultimate Glory*, David Gessner lets loose a barbaric yawp, akin to Whitman's in *Song of Myself*: 'I was the man, I suffered, I was there.' Read it for all the hucks and layouts, for the epic battles between Hostages and Rude Boys, and for its fascinating history of the sport. But even more, read it to hear one of America's most gifted writers sing an unabashed love song to the glory of being alive." —Patrick Phillips, author of *Blood at*

the Root“Even if I watched him play, I wouldn’t be able to tell you if David Gessner is any good at Ultimate Frisbee. But the man can write, and this homage to his oddball sport is rich with life’s joys, sorrows and universal truths.”
• Dan Shaughnessy, New York Times-bestselling co-author of *Franconia* Praise for David Gessner and *All the Wild that Remains*:
“Gessner [has a] wacky sense of humor and rigorous mind. . . . [He] proves to be an amiable guide, an aging, beer-loving jock. . . . But Gessner also digs deep.”
• Los Angeles Review of Books
“[An] artful combination of nature writing, biography, literary criticism, and cultural history . . . Like the best works of Stegner and Abbey, Gessner’s book sands away the varnish of legend that casts the West in the unlikely role of American Eden.”
• The Christian Science Monitor

David Gessner is the author of ten books, including the New York Times bestseller *All the Wild That Remains*. He has taught environmental writing as a Briggs-Copeland Lecturer at Harvard and is currently chair of the creative writing department at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where he founded the award-winning literary journal *Ecotone*. He lives in Wilmington.

A great book that I couldn’t put down. I read it in 1 day. I am a few years older than Gessner & he has perfectly captured the changes in the sport through the years. But more than a mere Ultimate history, his interweaving life story is what makes this a great read. As much of a voracious reader that I am, this book is the first that I have written an review for. Buy it, you won’t be disappointed.

Great book . I felt I was right by author every step of the way ! A meaningful , productive well written book .The kind we need badly these days !

Read it in one sitting. It runs like a river. Thoughtful and engaging even for people who know nothing about the sport.

David Gessner tells it like it was. The sport’s trajectory from barefoot in the park towards the Olympics is documented expertly and framed in the context of his Harvard coming-of-age writer-dude story. Try it, you’ll like it.

This book is so well-written and utterly hilarious. Couldn’t put it down.

(The Billionaire's Obsession series Book 1) Until It Hurts: America's Obsession with Youth Sports and How It Harms Our Kids Hound of the Sea: Wild Man. Wild Waves. Wild Wisdom. Edible Wild Plants: Wild Foods From Dirt To Plate (The Wild Food Adventure Series, Book 1) Young People's Voices in Physical Education and Youth Sport (Routledge Studies in Physical Education and Youth Sport) Teens & Suicide (Gallup Youth Survey: Major Issues and Trends) (Gallup Youth Survey: Major Issues and Trends (Mason Crest)) Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can Do About It Hope Is Cut: Youth, Unemployment, and the Future in Urban Ethiopia (Global Youth) Youth Ministry in the 21st Century: Five Views (Youth, Family, and Culture) Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations into the Family of Faith (Youth, Family, and Culture) OMG: A Youth Ministry Handbook (Youth and Theology) A Different Way of Seeing: Youth With Visual Impairments and Blindness (Youth With Special Needs) The Ocean Inside: Youth Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Youth With Special Needs) Youth with Gender Issues: Seeking an Identity (Helping Youth with Mental, Physical, and Social Challenges)

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