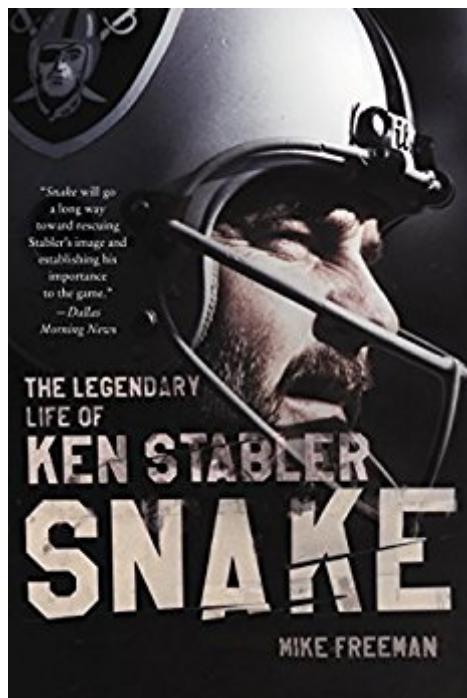


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Snake: The Legendary Life Of Ken Stabler



Synopsis

The first in-depth biography of one of the most talented and infamous legends to play in the National Football League—the life and times of pro football's first bad boy, famed Oakland Raiders quarterback Ken Stabler. Ken "The Snake" Stabler was the embodiment of the original Men in Black—the freewheeling, hard-hitting Oakland Raiders. The league's first swashbuckling pass thrower, the mythical southpaw Southerner famous for come-from-behind drives late in the game, Stabler led the Raiders to their first Super Bowl championship in 1977. In an era dominated by gentleman quarterbacks like Roger Staubach and Bob Griese, this 1974 NFL MVP, four-time Pro-bowler, and Super Bowl champion was an iconoclast who partied as hard as he played and lived life unapologetically on his own—not the NFL's terms. Though Stabler's legacy is larger-than-life, there has never before been an exclusive account of him, until now. Snake goes deep under the surface of Stabler's persona to reveal a man who, despite his penchant for partying and debauchery, was committed to winning and being the best player he could be. From his college days playing for Bear Bryant at Alabama to his years with the Raiders under coach John Madden, his broadcasting career to his death in 2015 and the revelation that he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, known as C.T.E., Snake probes the myriad facets of Stabler's life on and off the field to tell his complete story, and explores how his legacy and the culture and times that pivotally shaped it, continues to impact football today.

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Customer Reviews

husband read this. said it was "ok"

Solid depiction of Ken Stabler's life... From humble beginnings, through the shadow of "Bear" Bryant to a Super Bowl Championship, Stabler's personality is revealed. A story worth reading.

Great book focused on Ken Stabler the man....As an avid Raider Nation fan I learned a lot about the Snake.Thank you

Would love to give this 5 stars -- Snake is the reason I'm a pro football fan. Fact-checking in this book missed a few key points. There are contradiction when the same story is referenced in multiple places, and this happens for several stories. I'm not criticizing Snake's life -- that's part of what drew me to being a fan of his (and developing a taste for whiskey myself!). Loved Snake. What I am criticizing is the lack of thoroughness of the research. The worst one in my opinion is this:P. 22 The Italian Campaign:Sometime between 1926 and 1930 he (William Edgar Stabler) moved his family of two sons and three daughters to Foley, in Baldwin County. There the youngest son, Jimmy, was born. ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã | Jimmy was KennyÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s grandfather.ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã Ã•Not possible. Snake was born Dec. 25, 1945. Yet, Leroy ÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã ËœSlimÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢ Stabler (SnakeÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s dad) was in Europe, including fighting in Anzio, from late November 1943 to mid-July 1944. If Jimmy was really KennyÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s grandfather, and was thus born in 1930 or later, thereÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s no way Jimmy would have a son old enough to enlist to fight in WWII in 1943. Hell, Jimmy himself wasn't old enough to enlist to fight in WWII. Jimmy has to be Snake's uncle.Rather, using Ancestry.comÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s records, this appears to be the case:2 May 1923, Leroy Stabler was born in Alabama; his father was (William) Edgar Stabler (Snake's grandfather, born in 1894), his mother Marie Williams. LeroyÃƒÂ¢Ã ¬Ã â„¢s wife was Myrtle Margaret Osborne Stabler. A 1923 birth for

SnakeÃ¢â€šâ€œs dad makes a lot more sense.

Really enjoyed this book. Mike brings inside knowledge and insight to one of the most colorful, influential and truly great players in NFL history. His change of life is extremely well chronicled.

As a true Silver & Black Raider fan from their inceptionÃ¢â€šâ€œ and an original PSL season ticket holder upon their journey back to OaklandÃ¢â€šâ€œ IÃ¢â€šâ€œve seen and cheered them all on. But the one playerÃ¢â€šâ€œ aboveÃ¢â€šâ€œ and the inimitableÃ¢â€šâ€œ beyondÃ¢â€šâ€œ them allÃ¢â€šâ€œ who I idolized on AND off the fieldÃ¢â€šâ€œ was the oneÃ¢â€šâ€œ and onlyÃ¢â€šâ€œ the inimitableÃ¢â€šâ€œ SnakeÃ¢â€šâ€œ! The coolest man on the fieldÃ¢â€šâ€œ even with seconds remainingÃ¢â€šâ€œ in game after gameÃ¢â€šâ€œ and the outcome on the lineÃ¢â€šâ€œ every Raider looked toÃ¢â€šâ€œ believed inÃ¢â€šâ€œ and followedÃ¢â€šâ€œ the now *LONG-OVER-DUE-HALL-OF-FAMER*Ã¢â€šâ€œ KENÃ¢â€šâ€œ â€œTHE SNAKEÃ¢â€šâ€œ STABLER!... The Snake was also the coolest man in every bar in townÃ¢â€šâ€œ and I idolized him for that too! Potential readersÃ¢â€šâ€œ who are reading this reviewÃ¢â€šâ€œ please believe meÃ¢â€šâ€œ that my feelings forÃ¢â€šâ€œ The SnakeÃ¢â€šâ€œ will not influence my review of the quality of the book. First let me point out that this is a short bookÃ¢â€šâ€œ that if you take away the bibliography/sources pages is only 227 pagesÃ¢â€šâ€œ and if you take away the three pages (two blank and one wasted with simply a small title) between each of the fourÃ¢â€šâ€œ sub-bookÃ¢â€šâ€œ dividersÃ¢â€šâ€œ and itÃ¢â€šâ€œ even twelve pages less than that. There are about five pages (an estimate) telling about StablerÃ¢â€šâ€œ ancestry dating back to the 1600Ã¢â€šâ€œ and 1700Ã¢â€šâ€œ â€œsÃ¢â€šâ€œ that I thought would never endÃ¢â€šâ€œ and seemed like a hundred pages. Now that I got those two things out of the wayÃ¢â€šâ€œ everything else isÃ¢â€šâ€œ UNBELIEVABLE!! Being KennyÃ¢â€šâ€œ life and career is historyÃ¢â€šâ€œ much of what is writtenÃ¢â€šâ€œ has been written beforeÃ¢â€šâ€œ (and duly noted)Ã¢â€šâ€œ but interspersedÃ¢â€šâ€œ are many personal interviews and discussions directly with the author. The personal admiration for Stabler by the authorÃ¢â€šâ€œ is not only informativeÃ¢â€šâ€œ but to me highly admirable. In my opinionÃ¢â€šâ€œ itÃ¢â€šâ€œs that very combination of historyÃ¢â€šâ€œ and true heartbeatÃ¢â€šâ€œ that make *this-book-on-this-subject-at-this-time* even more

Bears in which he was picked up and tossed on his head. When he awoke, he was helped off the field, only to return in time to help the Raiders win. After the game, the Bears' Walter Payton approached Snake as he was walking off the field, and then came one of those small but powerful moments that often go unnoticed.

"YOU ARE SUCH A GREAT FIGHTER," PAYTON TOLD SNAKE, "IT WAS AN HONOR TO BE ON THE SAME FIELD AS YOU." Perhaps the greatest accomplishment by the author Mike Freeman in this book is showing without a shadow of doubt how much he loved football. Whether he just got done studying his playbook by the light of a jukebox or whether he only had an hour of sleep he was always ready to win on that football field. Two quotes from this book that I will highlight here show the range of Stabler's wit and true emotions. One year the Raiders were in the Super Bowl that was played in Pasadena, California during Super Bowl week. he (Stabler) paid a visit to the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles and he said, "Just went to share a few thoughts about football with some of the librarians there! And a friend of Stabler's once read him a quote from writer and social activist Jack London: "I would rather be a meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days trying to prolong them, I shall use my time." What does that mean to you?" Stabler was asked. He thought and contemplated. Seconds passed. "THROW DEEP," he said. To me that says it all!

Rest in peace My Brother. Thanks for all the Silver and Black memories. Rick

It's an OK read but lots of repetition of events. Some new material.

Got it as a gift for my wife who grew up with Kenny...she loves it.

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