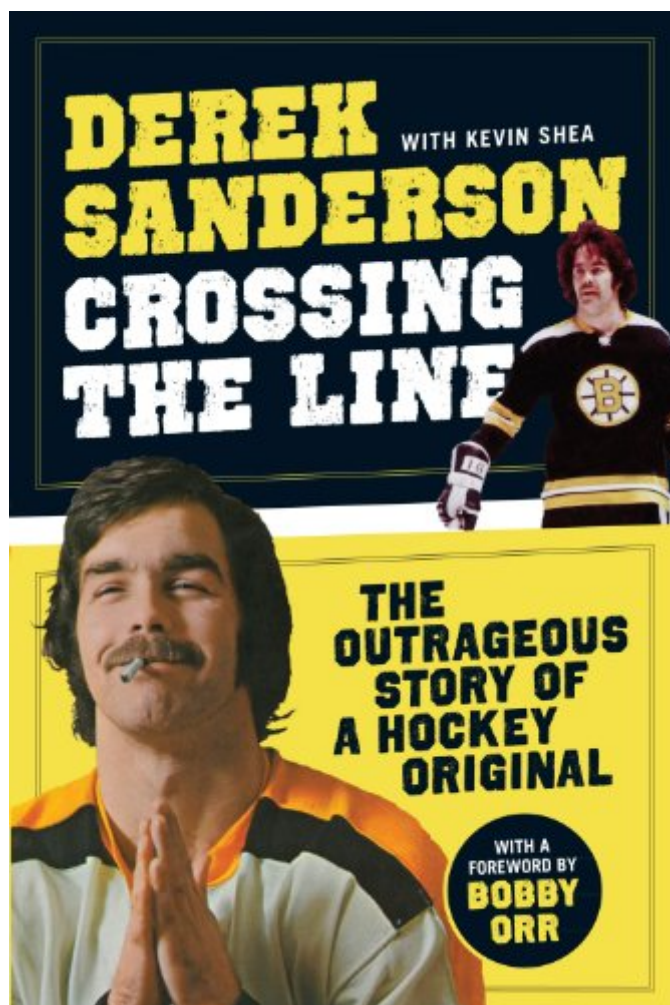


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# Crossing The Line: The Outrageous Story Of A Hockey Original



## Synopsis

The autobiography of one of hockey's first rebels and a beloved member of the "Big Bad Bruins," this book shares how Derek Sanderson's ferocious style helped lead the team to two Stanley Cup victories in the early 1970s. Living life in the fast lane, Sanderson grew his hair long, developed a serious drinking problem, and eventually found himself out of the league and prowling the streets for his next drink. In this autobiography, Sanderson comes clean on his life in hockey, the demons that threatened to consume him, and the strength and courage it took to fight his way back. Today a successful entrepreneur and speaker, Sanderson's incredible story is a must read for any fan of hockey.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was a great read. For those who aren't familiar, it is the story of Derek Sanderson, who broke into the NHL playing center for the Boston Bruins. In his first season he won the Calder Trophy as rookie of the year. In the next 6 years he became a Stanley Cup winner with the Bruins twice. Along the way he developed a flamboyant image that had him hanging around with guys like football quarterback Joe Namath, and baseball star Ken Harrelson, all while living a life that most of

the rest of us could only dream about. His ascension peaked, when in 1974 he became the highest paid athlete in the world when he signed a \$2.65 Million dollar contract to play for the Philadelphia Blazers of the newly formed World Hockey Association. This book describes the way up, and the way down, as he descended into the hell of alcoholism and drug addiction and chronicles how he went from being the highest paid athlete in the world, to sleeping in a refrigerator box in Central Park in New York and panhandling, and eating out of dumpsters, and then his recovery and his new life as a sportscaster, and financial planner. It is a very riveting read, and was difficult to put down.

A very humble and sincere reflection from a highly charismatic and controversial athlete. Growing up in NYC and becoming an NHL fan around the time he entered professional hockey, he and his big bad Bruins certainly added a dimension to the sport, the likes of what had previously not have existed. While there is credibility to the belief the team's brawling style led to the ugliness of the mid seventies brawling Flyers, their overall talent and flair with the puck led by the revolutionary defensive style of Bobby Orr and record breaking goal scoring by Phil Esposito really opened up the game. I attended the game in NYC mentioned in the book where Sa

For someone who grew up in the Boston area watching a hockey team with Bobby Orr and Phil Esposito on it, this had to be a must-read for me. And even though I suspected I would read a lot of what I already knew about those Boston Bruins, I was completely surprised about what I found out about Derek Sanderson. That's what makes this book a five star - the revealing under-belly of the professional hockey player, especially 50 years ago coupled with the remarkable life of Derek Sanderson. I knew Sanderson as a great defensive player who never lost a face-off or shied away from a fight. When I followed the Bruins, it seems Sanderson was in the penalty box more often than he was on the ice. While the hockey background is interesting to any sport fan, Sanderson's life away from the ice rink is just as interesting. Without spoiling the book for the reader, suffice to say the path downward and the climb back out of the darkest depths he traveled will keep the reader's attention. The bumps along the road during these travels will keep most readers up late at night. This is a fun read for anyone interested in what can happen when drugs and alcohol become master. It's a must read for a sports fan of the old Boston Bruins of the Bobby Orr era.

I have been a Bruins fan since the early 70s. I remember watching Derek and how flamboyant he was. There were some stories I remembered, which brought back memories. And then there were stories that I never heard of, which were both interesting and eye opening. Except for the first

chapter, everything is in chronological order, which is how I like to read books. Sure there was a little back and forth, but not much. The book started to pick up steam when he started his hockey career. I remembered so much. About 1/3 and 2/3 of the way through the book, there are glossy pictures of Derek's life. I have to give Derek a lot of credit because he hit rock bottom and pulled himself out of it. I remember hearing about how Bobby Orr took him off a park bench and got him on the road to recovery. That wasn't in the book. Derek did mention Bobby got him into his first rehab, but that was it. There were many other rehab and detox places Derek went after that. But don't let that deter anyone from getting this book. The most powerful chapter was when he hit the skids. Some of the stories were mind boggling. A definite read for any Bruins fan and anyone who enjoys a great ending.

As a fan of the Big Bad Bruins, I enjoyed his recount of the formative years of my hockey life. I really enjoyed the inside the scenes stories and the realization of how human NHL players were was fascinating, not to mention their understandable issues with money and management. The personal background and trials and tribulations were very interesting and sad in a lot of ways. If I had to make a criticism, the book was a bit disorganized in my view. The first 2/3 made chronological sense, but once we got into the addictions and the personal stuff (especially his Dad), there was a lot of repetition of the same ideas and comments.... I found myself looking back at a previous reference and saying "what does he say that again?" The style is very choppy and conversational, not overly rewritten by a professional. The book would have been even better with a better job of editing down the rambling repeated thoughts and eliminating probably 35+ pages. But, I took it on flights and it literally made me miss the time I was in the air. I enjoyed it a lot and would recommend it to any 70's hockey fan.

A great story by a great storyteller. This is a story that had to be told. I am a recovering alcoholic and I can relate to what Derek was referring to, as I'm sure many other readers can. I've been a Sanderson & Bruins fan for over 40 years and this is the best book I've read. Derek Sanderson still rocks!!!

But this is the only one worth reading. His first book, "I Gotta Be Me," was a load of tripe by a egotistical kid enjoying his first taste of success. "Crossing The Line" was written by a wise, mature man who experienced the rest of life's peaks and valleys (some very dark valleys at that). Don't waste a minute on the first try at a life story, but don't miss the second try.

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