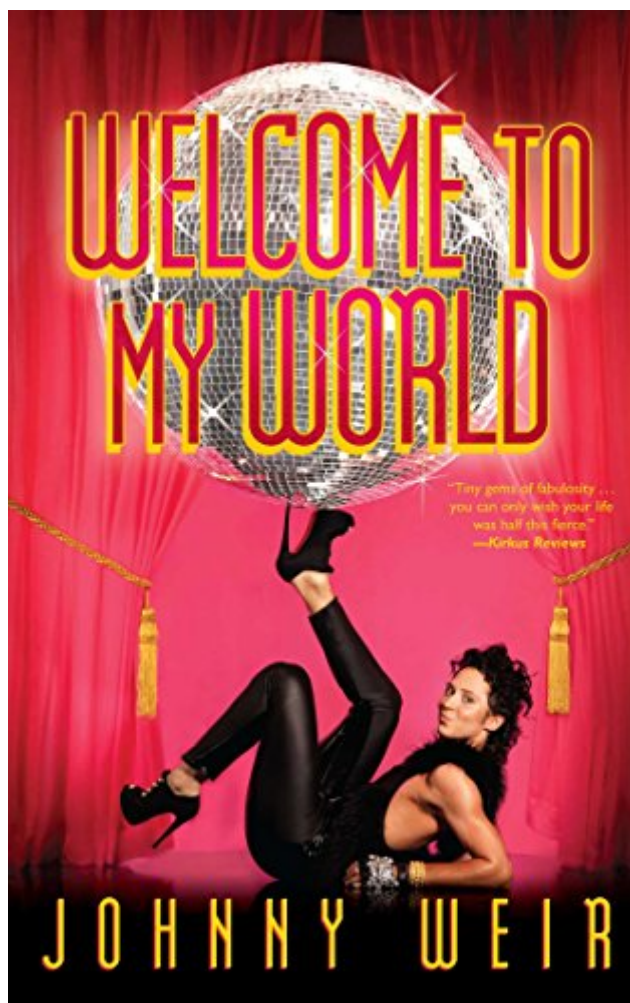


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Welcome To My World



Synopsis

In a memoir as candid and unconventional as Johnny Weir himself, the three-time U.S. National Champion figure skater who electrified the 2010 Winter Olympics shares his glamorous, gritty, heartbreaking, hopeful, and just plain fabulous life story. How does a boy from rural Pennsylvania become an all-American original style icon on the ice and off, adored by fans around the world, and hailed as "The Lady Gaga of skating" (Salon.com)? The answers are here, in his invigorating and thoroughly entertaining chronicle of the emergence of his natural talents for skating and horseback riding; the physically and emotionally grinding path to becoming a champion; a family who sacrificed everything to support his passions; an ability to rise again after the most devastating defeats and never look back; an appreciation of style (from his mom) and self-discipline (that would be from his dad); and a fearless confidence to say whatever's on his mind. Because when you're Johnny Weir, you don't worry about what other people think. You let everyone else worry about that for you. Welcome to his world.

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Customer Reviews

I love everything about Johnny, yes, a big fan! Besides being an outstanding, extremely talented athlete, he is also real and not afraid of being authentic himself. He is so comfortable with who he is, and I truly admire that. There is no question he was robbed of the metal at Olympics 2010, that was a performance of his life! He should have been on the podium, and those judges should be ashamed! I still can not believe they got away with that crime! The book was great, I enjoyed reading it and learning more about Johnny. I do agree he could have included more of his childhood stories but the competitive part was covered pretty well. It was interesting to peak into his personal life too, so full of controversy at times. I feel like he needs to write another book about his life after Olympics 2010. I hope he does! :-)

I wish I could give this 5 stars, as I generally appreciate Johnny Weir's way with words, as well as his skating talent. And his life story to date is interesting, even to someone like me who isn't a figure skating fanatic. But I wanted more. I enjoyed reading the material that was in the book, unevenly written though it was, jumping from Johnny's breezy fanboy-style gushing over his favorite celebrities to writing thoughtfully and touchingly about his relationship with his family and his first love. (Could the uneven tone be attributed to the fact that he's said he wrote part of the book and dictated the rest to a friend who transcribed it?) Still, I appreciated that the story is told in Johnny's (often amusingly self-disparaging) voice and not a ghost-writer's. I enjoyed finally hearing Johnny's side of, and take on, so many of the stories about him and his skating, as opposed to the media's versions, including his coming clean about some of his "injuries" that caused him to withdraw from various competitions. There are a number of stories started, but not finished, while other stories are picked-up seemingly mid-story; and there are too many gaps in time with no explanation of what Johnny was doing during those gaps. Was material cut from the book that would have filled in the gaps? Was the book rushed into print before the gaps could be filled? Do the gaps exist because the book was intended to be a book of "essays" rather than an actual memoir? Johnny says much he had written had to be cut from the book because of his editors' concerns about being sued, so he couldn't "name names" and reveal all the "dirt" about figure skating as he'd once promised. And he still hasn't made up his mind about returning to competitive skating, so perhaps it was wise not to upset USFS more than this book probably already has. But surely, all the incomplete stories couldn't have been lawsuit-worthy--i.e. How and when did his pairs partnership with Jodi Rudden end? How did his relationship with his seemingly unflappable costume designer/maker Stephanie Handler start and develop over the years? How and when did Johnny get his unnamed first agent--the one who he could never reach on the phone? Johnny has some long-time close friends in the skating world

who are barely mentioned in the book: Evgeni Plushenko, Stephane Lambiel, Sasha Cohen, and Tanith Belbin spring to mind. Where are the memories about skating and touring with them? There must be some interesting and entertaining stories involving them. And since he slammed skater Michael Weiss in the book, Johnny could have at least told us what the basis for the swipe was. Where are the stories I'd like to hear more about that he's mentioned elsewhere such as Priscilla Hill's teaching him to drive with her skates on, or his listening to Howard Stern's radio program "Private Parts" on the car radio as his teen babysitter drove him to practice? When Johnny appeared on MTV's "When I was 17," he told some very funny stories about his 17th year, but they aren't in the book. They, and similar stories about his teenage years, would have been a wonderful addition to the book. And while Johnny does mention a few of his sometimes controversial (but usually wildly entertaining) quotes, why so few when there are so many to choose from? And why does he not explain when, where, and why he said the few controversial comments he does mention in the book? Context would have added meaning. And although perhaps not of interest to a non-skating-fan readers, where's the list of his competitions, medals, programs, music, choreographers that should be in an appendix? OK, Johnny said this is a "memoir," so I guess it's not an "autobiography" which would include the career highlights of his life so far, but still, I would have appreciated the inclusion of a reference list. So, while I enjoyed what was in the book, I wanted more. More stories, more information, and more photos, as the small number of photos in the book weren't enough. I would have liked more photos to supplement the stories in the book: photos from his programs and competitions, of his costumes, of his off-the-ice fashion choices, of his hairstyles through the years. The book was good, there just wasn't enough in it for me to give it 5 stars.

This is a fun read written in a conversational tone that describes the wholly unique life experiences of everyone's favorite charismatic figure skater. Prologue and ending are weak; the rest is very interesting. Weir has a fun sense of humor and is just a really unique individual; that makes the book fun to read. His ideas about gender identity made the book quite interesting too. One other criticism I have is that he sometimes is a little hypocritical about claiming he doesn't care what anyone thinks -- but then he seems to use some passages to kind of blatantly justify his past actions. Still, I really liked the book.

I loved this book! Totally smart, sassy and irreverent, this book has the "flavor" of Johnny Weir. I enjoyed getting a front-row seat into Johnny's life so far and into the world of competitive ice-skating. Biased? Sure, but expectedly so, as this is *Johnny's* view of the world. This book had

me alternately howling with laughter and sighing with compassion. It's a quick and easy read - nothing too earth-shattering here. I feel like I have a slightly different take on Johnny Weir's personality to what the media has fed us. Sure, sometimes he's petulant and snarky, but he's also sharp, ambitious and driven to succeed. If you've watched the aired pilot "movie" for his reality TV show "Be Good Johnny Weir" titled "Pop Star on Ice", then you won't be enlightened by too much that's in this book. Much of this book concentrates on the same time frames and events from that episode. Still, I found the book overall to be an enjoyable read. I think I'm most impressed at the detailing of his various relationships - with his family, his coaches, and his close circle of friends. Johnny comes off, to me, as a clever and sarcastic and yet warm and funny guy that I would love to pal around with! If you're a fan of Johnny Weir I highly recommend this memoir.

Great seller, great subject, sort of melodramatic writing. Really, I got this because I was intrigued about Weir after the Winter Olympics in Sochi, and wanted a more up-close viewpoint of his life than was online. After having heard Weir speak so eloquently, with such powerful command of the English language and an ability to speak in a sophisticated and worldly way, I did not expect the much more over-blown voice and tone of this book. It was like the difference between the spoken dialogue on *The West Wing* versus the type of whiny and catty spontaneous attitude seen on many reality or gossip shows on TV. Come on, Johnny, you can do better than this. Just being a bit of a skater-diva doesn't mean you have to lower yourself to the level of *Toddlers in Tiaras*!

If you really want to know Johnny this book is for you. He is upfront all all aspects of his life.

A fun read if you are at all interested in the skating world. Johnny's world is full of up's and down's as he navigates himself through not only the customary rigors of growing up as a young boy into adulthood, but also must deal with the sometimes brutal world of competitive skating. Written in a fun, informal way but with great detail. A real peek into the inside world of competitive figure skating.

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