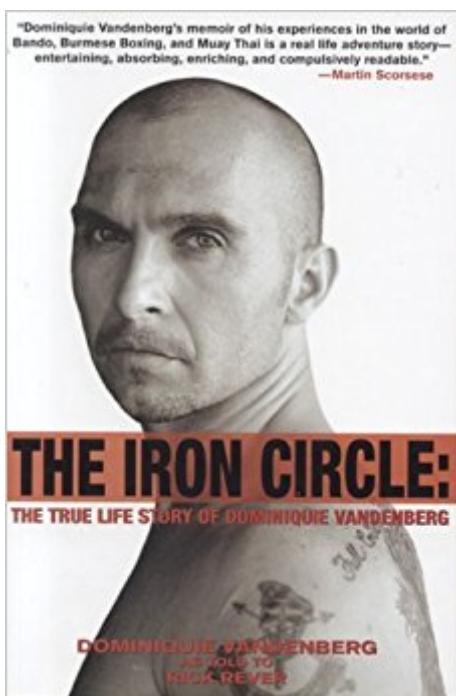


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The Iron Circle: The True Life Story Of Dominique Vandenberg



Synopsis

Vandenberg, at eighteen, became the youngest man ever to win the champion title at The World Open in Bare Knuckle Karate. An accident caused a leg injury and he endured a painful recovery period. After his leg healed, he went on to fight Kran, the legendary Northern Thai fighter. Vandenberg had become the best. This is his story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Vandenberg coordinates fight scenes for major movies, and to say he earned his qualifications the hard way would be an understatement. Describing himself as an adolescent with a "lethal gift" of aggressive rage, Vandenberg recounts how he grew dissatisfied with regulated martial arts competitions in his native Belgium and sought out increasingly violent forms of combat, eventually leaving home at 16 to train at a Japanese fighting school. When an injury sidelined his career, he found another outlet for his impulses in the French Foreign Legion, which brutalized him during training, then sent him to various African hellholes, after which he returned to Thailand to resume beating other men in the ring. He tells of these exploits in exacting detail sure to satiate the bloodlust of action fans. It's uncertain, though, how much other readers will identify with a self-described "Pissed-off Murderous Sociopath" so callused by his experiences that he skipped out on his leukemia-stricken mother's sickbed to join the legion, no matter how compelling his story is. And for all his contempt for "New Age crap," Vandenberg indulges in his own brand of romanticism, glorifying his ultraviolent career with ponderous statements. A final encounter with an American

Buddhist monk hints at a personal transformation but ends uncertainly, perhaps laying the groundwork for a kinder, gentler sequel. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

A poignant and well-written book. Vandenberg's intensity got to me. I was enthralled. -- Daniel Day-Lewis
Dominique Vandenberg's memoir of his experiences in the world of Bando, Burmese Boxing and Muay Thai is a real life adventure story--entertaining, absorbing, enriching and compulsively readable. -- Martin Scorsese
I've never met anyone who has more knowledge about different styles of fighting and martial arts techniques. -- Leonardo DiCaprio

As a martial artist, I was very curious about this book. I recently sent a copy to a friend who trains in Asia, and he really ate it up. The book is amazing in its honesty. The author is not some kind of macho wannabe. He is a guy who does things, and then asks himself why he did it. It is a very interesting book of self-analysis, and a look into the dark side of the male psyche. I did not find the writing to be off-putting. I think that they make a point in the book of stating that this book was told to Mr. Rever by Vandenberg, so the writing is spontaneous and reflects that fact, like an oral history or an interview. I actually liked that aspect of the writing. Yes, some expressions do sound a bit odd, but Vandenberg is Belgian and thus English is not his native language, and I appreciated for example, him letting us know how people in the world of martial arts in Asia and the French Foreign Legion talk. The author is amazing in the fact that he had so many dangerous and exciting experiences. Most men only have one tenth of what he experienced in their lives. It reminds me of the expression: "all men die. Most men never live". I found the chapters on the French Foreign Legion particularly interesting. This book takes you from one country to the next fast, and at the same time, is a deeply introspective look into the warrior's soul.

Well written account of an exceedingly interesting life.

I actually liked this book a lot and had no reason to think it was fake until I watched an interview with Vandenberg himself. In the interview Vandenberg clearly states that the book was BASED ON his life, and that parts of the book were definitely tweaked to make the story more interesting. So there you have it. Who knows how much of the book is true and how much is fabricated?

Ok, Ok yeah, he's a bad a---. So what? What is the point of all this? You got me. The guy is either

SuperMan or is adept at fiction. You be the judge.

Ok so it looks like he took about 1/3 truth and wrote a bunch of fiction as the basis of this book. It reads like a 15 yr old with a vivid imagination wrote this. Yes I believe hes a Martial Artist and yes im pretty sure he was in the French Foreign Legion although his claim he was able to hold onto his Belgian passport makes me skeptical regardless of the pictures. I believe almost nothing of his fights and of course he has to through in how his Legion Parachute Regiment bested the Navy SEALS wen they trained together. I mean come on anyone with some military history knowledge knows the 2nd REP isnt in the same league as SEALS. There more akin to Army Rangers. Anyway this book was pretty comical and just had me shaking my head at all the fantasy island crap this guy expects people to actually believe.

Perfect Story, stunning book, nice Gentleman! Dominique Vandenberg served in the French Foreign Legion in the Years (approximatively) from 1985 until 1990. When i joint the 2e REP coming directly from French Guyana, i met him in Calvi in the first Companie. He serverd under another name (annonymat). His history is absolutely ok. He is one of theses men, honnest and serious. The French Foreign Legion is a unit we call creme de la creme, and so ... and much more ... ist the 2e REP. VANDENBERG has been part of the 2e REP for 5 Years. His career is traceable, and a lot of members of our Unit can tell some stunning stories about Dominique. For him Friendship is not only a word. Greetings from good old Germany. G.S.T.

This book starts out and ends on a high note. It keeps the reader hooked. Going through this man's life experiences both in the ring and in the French Foreign Legion made it very exciting, not to mention some of his low points in his life that he went through, you get a real respect for Dominique. This is a book you'll want to read more than once.

I did find this book amusing and entertaining. But I cannot find anything about "kunto karate" either. I also found offensive and unbelievable how he commented how the 2nd Parachute Reg ran circles around a Navy Seal team in a training exercise. I find that hard to believe. Also his comment about Seal team 6 being helpless in the jungle even though they tough I also found unbelieveable and angered me. Read more like a really enjoyable fiction to me.

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