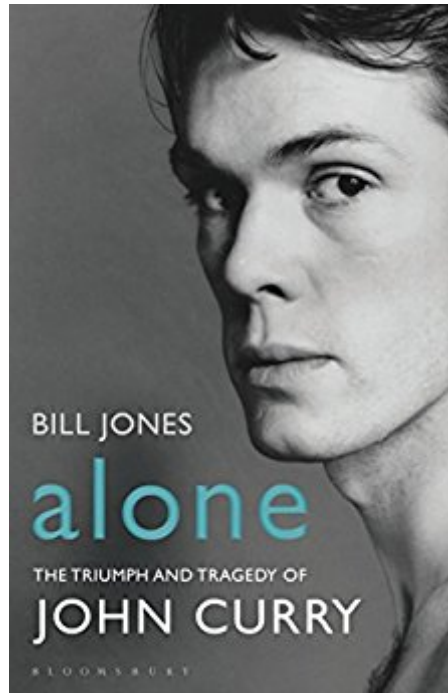




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Alone: The Triumph And Tragedy Of John Curry



Synopsis

Shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year award. One winter's night in 1976, over 20 million people in Britain watched John Curry skate to Olympic glory on an ice rink in Austria. Many millions more watched around the world. Overnight he became one of the most famous men on the planet. He was awarded the OBE. He was chosen as BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Curry had changed ice skating from marginal sport to high art. And yet the man was *Ã¢â¬â* and would always remain *Ã¢â¬â* an absolute mystery to a world that had been dazzled by his gift. Surely, men's skating was supposed to be Cossack-muscular, not sensual and ambiguous like this. Curry himself was an often-tortured man of labyrinthine complexity. For the first time, *Alone* untangles the extraordinary web of his toxic, troubled, brilliant *Ã¢â¬â* and short *Ã¢â¬â* life. It is a story of childhood nightmares, furious ambition, sporting genius, lifelong rivalries, homophobia, Cold War politics, financial ruin and deep personal tragedy. *Alone* reveals the restless, impatient, often dark soul of a man whose words could lacerate, whose skating invariably moved audiences to tears, and who *Ã¢â¬â* after succumbing to AIDS, as so many of his fellow artists and friends did *Ã¢â¬â* died of a heart attack aged just 44.

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Customer Reviews

Having long admired John Curry's skating, I was interested in learning about what it took to become (in my opinion), the greatest skater ever. Many of the answers are found here: discipline, tragedy & musicianship. There is little doubt Mr. Curry could have been one of the finest dancers of his or any other day, yet was denied that chance by a cruel, close-minded father. Dancing's loss was skating's gain, although I am saddened Mr. Curry is not better known. If this book paints John as an unlikeable person, it also does a fine job of explaining why he was that way. Demon or Deity, I am still intrigued by Mr. Curry's magic.

One of the best written bios I've read. It managed to show his flaws while remaining sympathetic. The story itself is fascinating. John tried to invent a whole new form of highbrow ice entertainment but didn't have the temperament or business acumen to manage a troupe. Recommended to all skating fans.

Everything you wanted to know about the mysterious John Curry; his ambition, goals, what his friends went thru with his moodiness. He was a pioneer that changed the sport for the better. It was also a bit dishy on fellow skaters Jo Jo Starbuck & Dorothy Hamill and the major ice shows like Ice Capades.

I would have included "genius" in the title. Heartbreaking profile of a true artistic genius who singlehandedly changed and elevated the sport of figure skating into an art rivaling ballet. Be sure and watch his videos on YouTube, especially the programs "After All" (choreographed by Twyla Tharp), and his own choreography to Debussy's "Afternoon of a Faun." He achieved incredible beauty.

I think it is well written. I was fortunate to have met John have a skating lesson with him and to skate in a show with him at the old skyrink. I did not know a lot about his history except what I read. When you train at something for years there are going to be highs and lows. He changed the face of male figure skating in my opinion for the better. My one word for John Curry, GENIUS. Thank you John.

A wonderfully written book! I recommend this book to all figure skaters and anyone who is interested

in figure skating. I hope Hollywood (or someone) would someday make it into a movie about John Curry! A beautiful yet flawed man!

Excellent, objective biography of a great figure skater/dancer. Thank you Bill Jones for writing it and to all those who contributed to your book.

I've been a huge fan of skating my whole life, and I was always bored by John Curry's "magnificent artistry." It was as if I could tell that his art didn't come from a warm and loving place even as a kid, and this book confirms that notion up, down, and sideways. The author paints a very objective picture of Curry's life and personality, and even objectively...well, he's not a people person, that's for sure. But the cast of characters that tell the story - JoJo Starbuck, Toller Cranston, and lesser known skaters and supporters - are a delight to read, and their support of him was unwavering even when they were being torn down by his artistic tyranny and left unpaid when he walked out on his own productions. Jones paints a vivid picture of skating in the 70s and 80s, and much as I was irritated by the main character, disappointed in his actions, I couldn't put this book down.

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