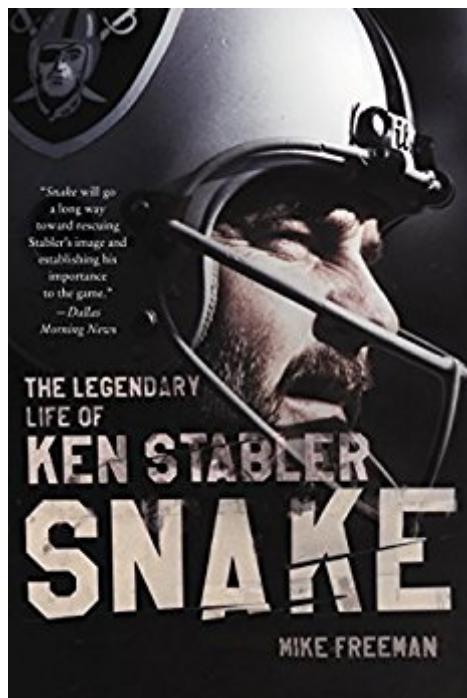


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Snake: The Legendary Life Of Ken Stabler



Synopsis

The first in-depth biography of one of the most talented and infamous legends to play in the National Football Leagueâ "the life and times of pro footballâ ™s first bad boy, famed Oakland Raiders quarterback Ken Stabler.Ken "The Snake" Stabler was the embodiment of the original Men in Blackâ "the freewheeling, hard-hitting Oakland Raiders. The leagueâ ™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 ownâ "not the NFLâ ™sâ "terms.Though Stablerâ ™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 Stablerâ ™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 Stablerâ ™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. Â| Jimmy was KennyÂ|Â's grandfather.Â•Not possible. Snake was born Dec. 25, 1945. Yet, Leroy Â| SlimÂ| Stabler (SnakeÂ|Â's dad) was in Europe, including fighting in Anzio, from late November 1943 to mid-July 1944. If Jimmy was really KennyÂ|Â's grandfather, and was thus born in 1930 or later, thereÂ|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.comÂ|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. LeroyÂ|Â's wife was Myrtle Margaret Osborne Stabler. A 1923 birth for SnakeÂ|Â's 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 inception and an original PSL season ticket holder upon their journey back to Oakland I've seen and cheered them all on. But the one player above and beyond them all who I idolized on AND off the field was the one and only the inimitable *The Snake*! The coolest man on the field even with seconds remaining in game after game and the outcome on the line every Raider looked to believed in and followed the now *LONG-OVER-DUE-HALL-OF-FAMER* KEN *The SNAKE* STABLER!... The Snake was also the coolest man in every bar in town and I idolized him for that too! Potential readers who are reading this review please believe me that my feelings for *The Snake* will not influence my review of the quality of the book. First let me point out that this is a short book that if you take away the bibliography/sources pages is only 227 pages and if you take away the three pages (two blank and one wasted with simply a small title) between each of the four sub-book dividers and it's even twelve pages less than that. There are about five pages (an estimate) telling about Stabler's ancestry dating back to the 1600's and 1700's that I thought would never end and seemed like a hundred pages. Now that I got those two things out of the way everything else is UNBELIEVABLE!! Being Kenny's life and career is history much of what is written has been written before. (and duly noted) but interspersed are many personal interviews and discussions directly with the author. The personal admiration for Stabler by the author is not only informative but to me highly admirable. In my opinion it's that very combination of history and true heartbeat that make *this-book-on-this-subject-at-this-time* even more impactful and enjoyable. Poor Kenny and his lifelong fans which include me AND the author. The author could be me or many other fans that have stood at bars at ballgames in airports at the Thanksgiving dinner table and argued and/or simply proclaimed THAT KEN STABLER SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE HALL OF FAME DECADES AGO! The author covers all the bases including the saga of Stabler's Father Slim who did not come home from World War II unscathed. In those days there was no PTSD you either had scars that you can see missing appendages or you didn't get special care. Slim's inner ticking time bomb when mixed with alcohol.. affected the entire Stabler family for life. The author does a wonderful job extrapolating

outÃ¢ÂÂ| why Ã¢ÂÂœThe SnakeÃ¢ÂÂ• became who he wasÃ¢ÂÂ| on and off the field. Kenny was a great high school baseball pitcher as well as a great football player. In fact Stabler was the only high school pitcher to ever beat future baseball Hall of Famer Don Sutton. Ã¢ÂÂœThe SnakeÃ¢ÂÂ• struck out 16 batters in that game compared to SuttonÃ¢ÂÂ™s 14. From there to the University of AlabamaÃ¢ÂÂ| and the special relationshipÃ¢ÂÂ| againÃ¢ÂÂ| on and off the fieldÃ¢ÂÂ| with the legendary Bear Bryant. There are some great heartfelt stories from that time periodÃ¢ÂÂ| and of course later onÃ¢ÂÂ| thereÃ¢ÂÂ™s the special relationship with Hall of Fame Raider coach John Madden. Of course no story of Stabler or the all-time classic Silver and Black teams that Stabler spearheadedÃ¢ÂÂ| could leave out the literal all-time-all-timeÃ¢ÂÂ| classicÃ¢ÂÂ| plays and gamesÃ¢ÂÂ| such as THE HOLY ROLLERÃ¢ÂÂ| THE GHOST TO THE POSTÃ¢ÂÂ| THE IMMACULATE RECEPTIONÃ¢ÂÂ| **OR AS MANY RAIDERS AND FANS CALL ITÃ¢ÂÂ| Ã¢ÂÂœTHE IMMACULATE DECEPTIONÃ¢ÂÂ•Ã¢ÂÂ| but what true RaiderÃ¢ÂÂ| or simply true old-school football fansÃ¢ÂÂ| will be impressed withÃ¢ÂÂ| is among other thingsÃ¢ÂÂ| that Stabler called his own playsÃ¢ÂÂ| every player looked up to himÃ¢ÂÂ| and would follow him to hell and backÃ¢ÂÂ| that he was cooler and calmer than the coach with the game on the line. The utter respect that opposing players had for him is legendaryÃ¢ÂÂ| which has made it even more disdainfulÃ¢ÂÂ| that Ã¢ÂÂœThe SnakeÃ¢ÂÂ• didnÃ¢ÂÂ™t get into the Hall of Fame until after he died. After one game against the Bears in whichÃ¢ÂÂ| Ã¢ÂÂœhe 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 BearsÃ¢ÂÂ™ 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.

Ã¢ÂÂœYOUÃ¢ÂÂ™RE SUCH A GREAT FIGHTER,Ã¢ÂÂ• PAYTON TOLD SNAKE, Ã¢ÂÂœIT WAS AN HONOR TO BE ON THE SAME FIELD AS YOU.Ã¢ÂÂ• Perhaps the greatest accomplishment by the author Mike Freeman in this book is showing without a shadow of doubtÃ¢ÂÂ| how much Ã¢ÂÂœThe SnakeÃ¢ÂÂ• loved football. Whether he just got done studying his playbook by the light of a jukeboxÃ¢ÂÂ| whether he only had an hour of sleepÃ¢ÂÂ| he was always ready to win on that football field. Two quotes from this book that I will highlight hereÃ¢ÂÂ| show the range of StablerÃ¢ÂÂ™s wit and true emotionsÃ¢ÂÂ| One year the Raiders were in the Super Bowl that was played in Pasadena, CaliforniaÃ¢ÂÂ| during Super Bowl weekÃ¢ÂÂ| he (Stabler) paid a visit to the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles and he saidÃ¢ÂÂ| Ã¢ÂÂœJust went to share a few thoughts about football with some of the librarians there!Ã¢ÂÂ• AndÃ¢ÂÂ| Ã¢ÂÂœA friend of StablerÃ¢ÂÂ™s once read him a quote from writer and social activist Jack London: Ã¢ÂÂœI 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.â€œWhat does that mean to you?â€œ Stabler was asked.â€œHe thought and contemplated. Seconds passed.â€œTHROW DEEP,â€œ He said. To meâ€œ that says it all! Rest in peaceâ€œ My Brotherâ€œ thanks for all the Silver and Black memories. Rick â€œSHAQâ€œ Goldstein

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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