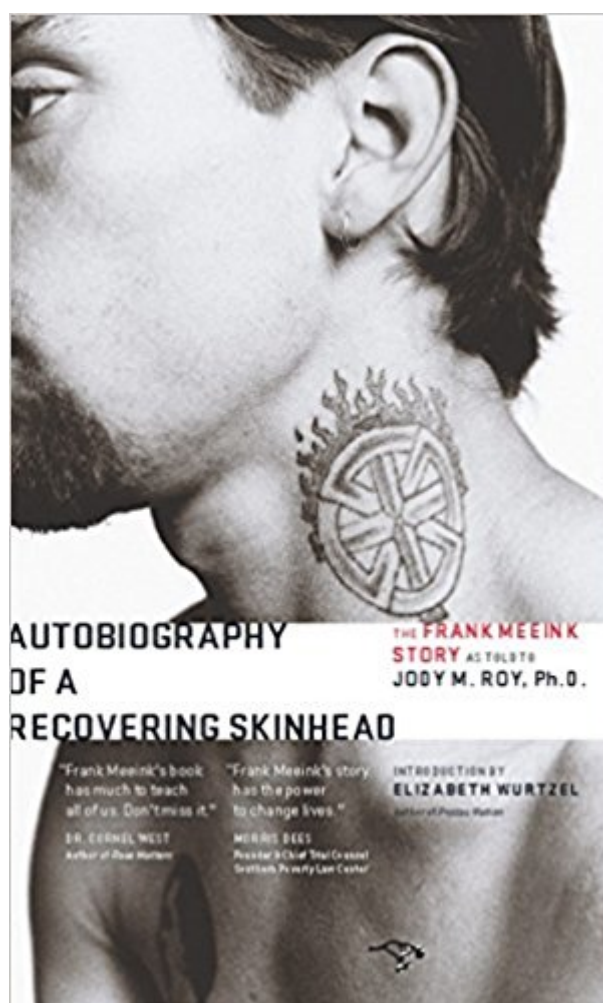


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Autobiography Of A Recovering Skinhead: The Frank Meeink Story As Told To Jody M. Roy, Ph.D.



Synopsis

Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead is Frank Meeink's raw telling of his descent into America's Nazi underground and his ultimate triumph over drugs and hatred.

Frank's violent childhood in South Philadelphia primed him to hate, while addiction made him easy prey for a small group of skinhead gang recruiters. By 16 he had become one of the most notorious skinhead gang leaders on the East Coast and by 18 he was doing hard time. Teamed up with African-American players in a prison football league, Frank learned to question his hatred, and after being paroled he defected from the white supremacy movement and began speaking on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League. A story of fighting the demons of hatred and addiction, Frank's downfall and ultimate redemption has the power to open hearts and change lives.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In this profound memoir, reformed skinhead Meeink, with assistance from academic and activist Roy (Love to Hate: America's Obsession with Hatred and Violence), recounts his former life as a Neo-Nazi. Told with passion and clarity, Meeink's story begins with neglectful parents and an abusive, junkie stepfather, who sowed the anger and hatred that would make him a prime candidate for the Neo-Nazi movement that exploded in Philadelphia through the late 1980s and '90s. Before long, Meeink's mutual embrace with the National Alliance led him to his own gang of recruits and a (largely random) "holy war" that would end up haunting him: "How many of my victims had wished for death while I brutalized them?" In federal prison at age 17, surrounded by

cons of all races and creeds, Meeink first began to question what he'd been taught about the "elite" Aryan race; the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing would complete his transformation, leading him to seek out the feds for confession. A brutal tour of modern American racism at its worst, a case study of traumatized youth and drug addiction, and a stark reminder of the human capacity for redemption, Meeink and Roy's account is a shocking but ultimately reaffirming read.

Here's a memoir guaranteed to generate a high amount of interest (and probably controversy). Before he was out of his teens, Meeink, a member of a group of white supremacists, was behind prison bars. But by the time he was released on parole, he was a changed man, having cast off his hatred; he became a public speaker, sharing his experiences, helping others to understand the nature of hatred and to find ways to combat it. Stories of personal redemption don't get much more interesting than this one, and the gritty first-person narrative (in the episodic format associated with "as told to" autobiographies) draws the reader into Meeink's story, giving it an immediacy and a visceral intensity that makes us feel as though we've lived a bit of his life. Readers should be warned that the book is unflinchingly straightforward: some of the language is quite raw, and some of the imagery quite graphic. But there's absolutely no point in telling this story if you're going to whitewash it first.

--David Pitt

Firstly, this book is amazingly honest and it's language is very down to earth. Second, Normally when I get books I either never finish them or I drag out the reading process due to boredom. I cannot say this loud enough, I WAS SO ENGAGED AND INTERESTED, THAT I READ THIS BOOK COVER TO COVER IN JUST TWO DAYS!!! No book has done that to me since I read Animal Farm in middle school. This tells a tale of a young man's life in and out of the neo nazi movement. (A young man we all could have become given similar circumstances). I don't want to spoil anything else (read the plot synopsis for that), just take my word it's a very very good book for anyone interested in the horrors of american racism.

This is a brutally honest, disturbing, yet powerful story about transformation. Frank's story offers me great hope in knowing that we, as humans, do have the capacity to significantly change and transform our lives from one filled with hate & violence to one committed to compassion, empathy, and connection. Frank is my youngest son's hockey coach, and to see the way he works with the youth - in encouraging them, building them up, believing in them, and instilling a sense of

interdependence with one another - it is truly hard to believe that he had once lived a completely different life. He is an inspiration to the players - and to me.

I literally could not put this book down for 5 minutes. Frankie grew up in South Philadelphia between two addictive parents and the fists of his stepfather. As a young teen he was recruited into the skin head hate culture which offering him a place to belong. It was obvious to me early on that he was destined for only one path: a prison sentence. Prison, however, seemed to be a blessing in disguise as he was secluded with those he was taught to hate. This book brought me to tears in two places...the first being the prayer service in prison with Able. Able invited Frank to pray with his black prayer group. Frankie mentally rejected even the thought of it. Able invited him a second time. Frank eventually made it to the prayer group and walked in, the circle of all black men opened and welcomed him. As they joined hands, Able thanked God for bringing Frank to them and then they prayed for Frankie. Please read this book....it will open your eyes, your heart and your mind.

Absolute enthralling book & story. Loved it. Keep the reader engaged. Frank opens up and lays out the truth of his life and makes no excuses. The writer did an excellent job putting it on paper while doing her research. Frank's ability to talk about his life so deep, his addiction, his continued fight to be free of all and most be a father. I have so many compliments for this book that I could write 10 pages. I strongly recommend it and be prepared for facts that you may or may not know about the movement, addicts and relating to people we may see everyday & never know what battles they are fighting. Great book by all involved, brother Good Luck, keep fighting for what you want out of life and God will take care of the rest. Bless you & Thank You again.

Very fast delivery. I loved the movie "American History X" and I had heard that the book was about the guy, Frank Meeink, that this book was written about. After watching a couple of YouTube videos of him during speaking engagements (where he renounces his evil ways), come to find out that the movie was kind of about him, in a very condensed way. of course. Still, a very interesting story. I recommend the book and I recommend this seller. Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead: The Frank Meeink Story as Told to Jody M. Roy, Ph.D.

My son recommended this book to me after Frank came to speak with the high school hockey team he helps coach. I work with at risk youth and was riveted to this book. The writing was so descriptive I could feel myself literally watching from the sidelines of Frank's life. I plan on purchasing a copy for

my classroom because the lessons learned by Frank as he's gone through his struggles are exactly what my student's need to hear. You won't regret reading this story of pain, suffering and anger turned to forgiveness, happiness and peace. It gives me hope for this world.

This is the first book I purchased with my Fire HD and I must say it was worth every penny. It had a good balance between his childhood, getting into the lifestyle, the years as an active racist skinhead and his years following the lifestyle and dealing with addiction. As someone who is into punk music especially London street punk or Oi! in the 70s and 80s I know that the skinhead subculture was never a racist movement and Frank addresses this quite well. Some people say that his story influenced the film American History X but Frank clearly puts that rumor to rest in the book. It's nice to read about someone overcoming his kind of obstacles and making something positive out of it.

This story is written from Frank's perspective and does not pull any punches. I liked the story and it flows well. I particularly like the fact that it showed his vulnerability and his ability to change his ways. I would like to hear him speak. Racism is a big deal in our country and it breeds hate. The way he presented his "awakening" when he realized that the black guys he was playing sports with were really likable and just like him was excellent. It took going to prison for him to figure out that we are all just people.

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