

ROLLER DERBY

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

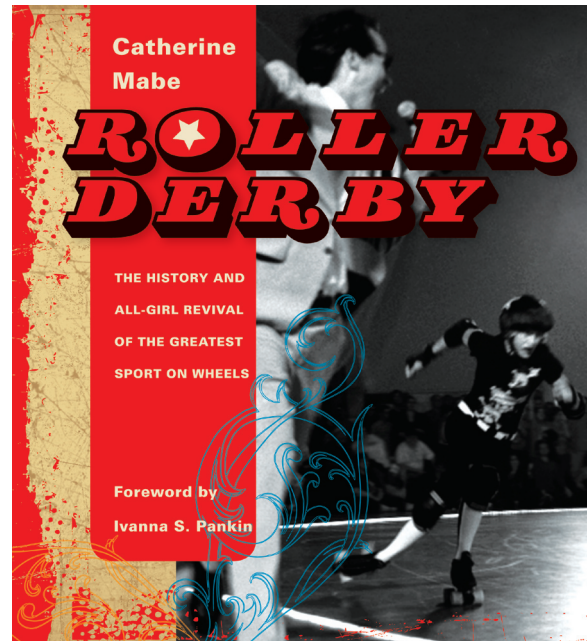
Tradition and re-invention; camp and hard-core strategy. Roller derby is this amazing American sport of duality. You may think you know derby, but trust me you don't. I learned that fact fast after my first meeting with the book's author, Catherine Mabe. Learning about derby through a derby girl's perspective evokes an incredible feeling of in-the-know coolness for one of the hottest happening scenes out there.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Do you hear that? It's the swift, rolling paces and reverberating collisions of one of America's most notorious and beloved sports racing into a city near you. Roller derby is back, *en masse!* Scores of American women are leading double lives. By day, they are librarians, financial analysts, bartenders, teachers, and even mothers; by night, their athletic alter egos assume authority with monikers such as Helen Wheels, Dirty Britches, Anna Mosity, and Assaultin' Pepa. They lace up their skates, slide into racy racing uniforms, and adorn a full set of protective gear for a night of down-and-dirty derby.

In *Roller Derby*, readers confront this die-hard sport in all its various incarnations, from the original depression-era games through the days of RollerJam to its current crazed, nationwide revival. If you don't have a league in your city, wait about a week. Fishnets and quad skates are bound to soon appear. Derby is springing up everywhere, from both coasts and everywhere in between—even across the pond.

What started as a dance-a-thon-style test of endurance has evolved into a unique sport that exemplifies point scoring, body checking, speed, blood, punches, and miles and miles of personality



and style. Readers revel in vignettes from old-school and new-school girls, continuing on with the process of selecting a derby name and style, the artistic element to logos and uniforms, so-gruesome-you-just-have-to-look injuries, what's legal during a bout and—more importantly—what's not, and much more.

Encircling the story of roller derby are vintage promo paraphernalia and historical photographs, as well as stunning, full-color and black-and-white, modern-day shots of the women, the bouts, and the sport.

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AUTHOR

AUTHOR BIO

Catherine Mabe (a. k. a. Jayne Manslaughter) is a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Rollergirls, one of the nation's popular, modern-day, flat-track roller derby leagues. She is first and foremost a skater but has also served as director of recruitment and public relations. Mabe's knowledge and understanding of roller derby's past coupled with her own immersion in the game's future provide a unique look at a truly American sport.

The recent worldwide expansion of the game has lured Mabe in further to the world of derby. She serves as Rookie League Wrangler for the central region of the U.S. and parts of Canada for the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA). In this role, she offers advice to leagues trying to get off the ground and puts them in touch with other WFTDA resources for information.

True to the image of a derby girl's fast-paced life, Mabe divides her time between living and working in Arizona and serving as an active member of the Rocky Mountain Rollergirls in Colorado.



10 THINGS JAYNE WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT ROLLER DERBY

1.

THE CRASHES, HITS, BLOCKS, AND EVEN THE FIGHTS ARE REAL. THE ONLY THING THEATRICAL IS THE UNIFORM!

2.

THERE IS ONE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF ROLLER DERBY NAMES. THE GOAL IS TO WARD OFF THE MAJOR DERBY FAUX PAS OF NAME DUPLICATION.

3.

MORE THAN 150 ALL-GIRL ROLLER DERBY LEAGUES ARE TURNIN' AND BURNIN' ACROSS THE NATION, WITH NEW LEAGUES ALSO SPRINGING UP IN CANADA, ENGLAND, NEW ZEALAND, AND GERMANY.

4.

WITH LIMITED OUTRIGHT VENUES, NUMEROUS LEAGUES HAVE TO SEEK OUT CREATIVE SKATE SPACE. OLD THEATERS, CONVERTED AIRPORT HANGARS, INLINE HOCKEY RINKS, AND EVEN A FEW PARKING GARAGES HAVE BECOME HOME FOR BOTH PRACTICES AND BOUTS.

5.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE CURRENT, RAGING REVIVAL.

6.

ROLLER DERBY WAS CREATED BY LEO SELTZER, SCRIBBLED ON A NAPKIN AT JOHNNY RICKETTS IN CHICAGO. HE COINED THE TERM TO DESCRIBE A LONG-TERM ENDURANCE RACE, INSPIRED BY THE POPULARITY OF ROLLER SKATING AND DANCE-A-THONS.

7.

IN A GENTLEWOMAN'S AGREEMENT, MOST MODERN-DAY LEAGUES HONOR AND OBSERVE THE FACT THAT #1 IS RETIRED. THE NUMBER SERVES AS A MEMORIAL TO THE 1937 ROOKIE TEAM WHO DIED IN A BUS CRASH OUTSIDE OF SALEM, ILLINOIS.

8.

ONLY ONE SKATER HAS EVER BEEN KILLED ON THE TRACK. IN KANSAS CITY, 1940, STEVE IRWIN TRIPPED, WENT OVER THE RAIL, AND CRASHED INTO SOME CHAIRS. HE SEEMED FINE, SO OFFICIALS LET HIM FINISH THE GAME. AFTER HIS TEAM WON, HE COLLAPSED AND DIED.

9.

QUAD SKATES DON'T JUST LOOK COOL, THEY ALSO GIVE DERBY GIRLS A LOT MORE MANEUVERABILITY THAN INLINES.

10.

ANYONE CAN BE A DERBY GIRL, AND EVERYONE SHOULD SUPPORT DERBY.

A FEW OF THE HOTTEST ROLLER DERBY LEAGUES IN THE U. S.

**ALAMO CITY ROLLERGIRLS -
SAN ANTONIO, TX**

**ARIZONA ROLLER DERBY -
PHOENIX, AZ**

**ASSASSINATION CITY ROLLER DERBY -
DALLAS, TX**

**ATLANTA ROLLERGIRLS -
ATLANTA, GA**

**BAY AREA DERBY GIRLS -
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**BIG EASY ROLLERGIRLS -
NEW ORLEANS, LA**

**BOSTON DERBY DAMES -
BOSTON, MA**

**CAROLINA ROLLERGIRLS -
RALEIGH, NC**

**DALLAS DERBY DEVILS -
DALLAS/FT. WORTH, TX**

**DETROIT ROLLER DERBY -
DETROIT, MI**

**DIXIE DERBY GIRLS -
HUNTSVILLE, AL**

**DOMINION DERBY GIRLS -
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**

**DUKE CITY DERBY -
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

**GOTHAM GIRLS ROLLER DERBY -
NEW YORK CITY, NY**

**HOUSTON ROLLER DERBY -
HOUSTON, TX**

**KC ROLLER WARRIORS -
KANSAS CITY, MO**

**LA DERBY DOLLS -
LOS ANGELES, CA**

**MAD ROLLIN' DOLLS -
MADISON, WI**

**MINNESOTA ROLLERGIRLS -
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

**OHIO ROLLERGIRLS -
COLUMBUS, OH**

**PHILLY ROLLERGIRLS -
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**PROVIDENCE ROLLER DERBY -
PROVIDENCE, RI**

**RAT CITY ROLLERGIRLS -
SEATTLE, WA**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN ROLLERGIRLS -
DENVER, CO**

**ROSE CITY ROLLERS -
PORTLAND, OR**

**TUCSON ROLLER DERBY -
TUCSON, AZ**

**WINDY CITY ROLLERS -
CHICAGO, IL**

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