

# *Roller Derby*

## *The History and All-Girl Revival of the Greatest Sport on Wheels*

by Catherine Mabe  
foreword by Ivanna S. Pankin

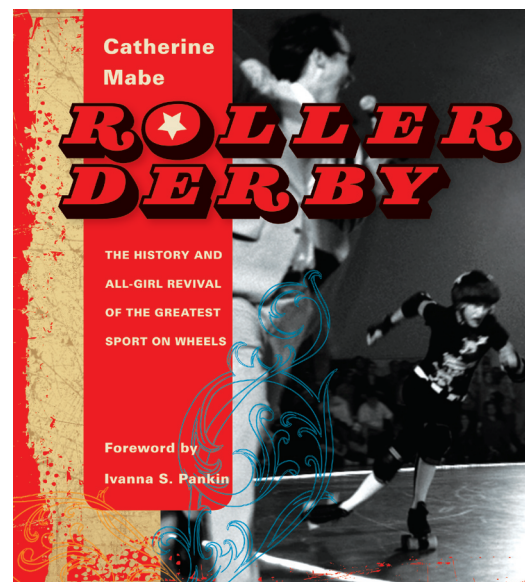
Scores of women are leading double lives. By day, they are librarians, financial analysts, bartenders, teachers, and mothers; by night, their athletic alter egos assume authority with monikers such as Helen Wheels, Dirty Britches, Anna Mosity, and Assaultin' Pepa. They lace up their skates, slide into racy uniforms, and adorn a full set of protective gear. The greatest sports on wheels is back—roller derby.

In *Roller Derby*, readers encounter roller derby in its various incarnations, from the original depression-era games through the days of RollerJam to its current revival. What started as a dance-a-thon-style test of endurance has evolved into a unique sport that exemplifies strategy, body checking, speed, and miles and miles of personality and style.

Written by a derby girl, readers get the rare opportunity to see the girl behind the fishnets and skates. Questions such as why they do derby, what it costs them and what they gain, and where they get their wicked one-of-a-kind names are all explored. Also explained are what's legal during a bout and—more importantly—what's not, complete with battle-scar photos.

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.

**Catherine Mabe** (a. k. a. Jayne Manslaughter) is a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Rollergirls, one of the nation's modern-day, flat-track roller derby leagues. She is first and foremost a skater but has also served as the director of recruitment and public relations, as well as Girl Friday for the league since its inception. Mabe's knowledge and understanding of roller derby's past plus her own immersion in the game's future provides a unique look at a truly unique sport.



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