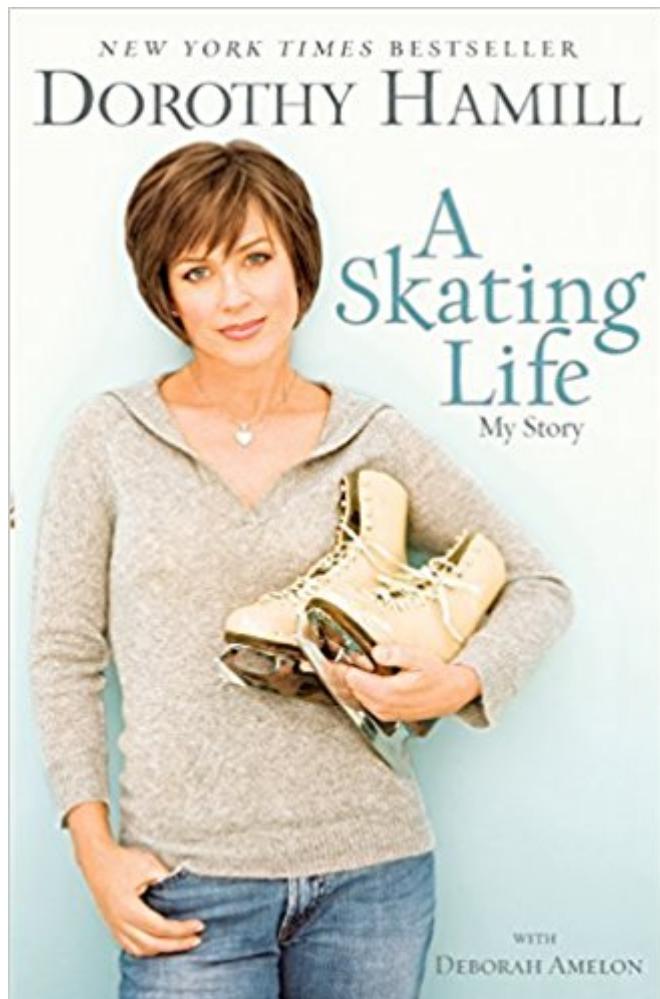


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# A Skating Life: My Story



## Synopsis

The dazzling smile, the signature haircut, the staple spin. "America's Sweetheart" Dorothy Hamill grew up on the ice, working toward the dream she was to accomplish by age nineteen: winning Olympic gold in figure skating. But life was not the picture of perfection it appeared to be. Dorothy faced a painful inner struggle from the time she was a young girl that followed her into adulthood--though she would not know about the depression that ran in her family until much later in life. Weeks and months away from home to train and compete took a difficult toll, yet little reprieve could be found in the tumultuous and fragile relationship she had with her parents. Dorothy went on to marry the man of her dreams, only to have the partnership end in heartache and a tragedy that almost pushed her to her breaking point. Then, just when a light at the end of the tunnel finally began to appear, a second failed marriage tried and tested Dorothy's trust and strength yet again--a travesty that could have led her to give up. But, she found a remarkable strength in what she did have--her greatest love, her daughter Alexandra. "Thank goodness, I had my skating. There was certainly a pattern to my life. When times were tough, I went skating. It was only while I was out on the ice, enjoying the freedom of movement and my love of music, that I was able to escape from my bottomless heartache." In her deeply moving and honest memoir, Dorothy opens up for the first time about love, family, courage, and what it means to truly win both on and off the ice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From age eight, when she discovered she loved skating, to age 19, when she won her Olympic gold

medal, Hamill's parents sacrificed and scraped so she could train. This memoir is her homage to them, as well as her frank recounting of the difficulties women faced in professional sports in the 1970s. Hamill's father worked to support the family, so her mother, Carol, would drive her to most practices and competitions, battling the sport's old boys' network on her daughter's behalf. After the Olympics, it was up to Hamill to figure out what to do. She was young and unschooled in life off the rink, with no female role models for the professional career she wanted. She struggled to pay back her parents, find a man who'd love her, and keep skating beautifully, but she couldn't do it all. She ended up suffering two difficult divorces and a custody battle, alienating her parents and going bankrupt trying to make the Ice Capades successful. Frequent mentions of Carol's mental problems distract from Hamill's story, but that won't dissuade the skater's fans from devouring this quietly charming book. (Oct.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Dorothy Hamill charmed America at the 1976 Olympics with her irresistible smile and her stellar performance, which brought home the gold in figure skating. One might have thought that the national attention and endorsements that followed;not to mention popularizing a cute wedge haircut and having an ice-skating move named after you (the Hamill Camel);would have resulted in a satisfying and relatively carefree life. Not so. Hamill reveals the truth in this candid memoir, exposing a litany of woes: the silent curse that afflicted both her parents (untreated depression); her father's alcoholism; financial hardship; her two failed marriages; and her self-doubt as life dealt her blow after blow. Watching her parents try to treat their depression with drinking or indifference made her face her own demons, and with proper treatment, she is able to keep her depression in check. On the plus side, Hamill celebrates the two loves of her life, skating and her daughter, Alexandra. A poignant, revealing look at a life we might have imagined differently; the story will touch the hearts of skating fans everywhere. Wilkens, Mary Frances --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I always loved Dorothy Hamill and I thoroughly enjoyed this memoir, even though her happy-go-lucky image belied much sadness and heart-ache. I clearly remember many of the events in the book and it was interesting to find out what was really happening behind the scenes. I also enjoyed the candid recollections of her childhood, how she actually got interested in figure skating, and the process that created Dorothy Hamill, Olympian Gold Medal Winner. I'm always struck by the humble and somewhat insecure nature of our perceived glamorous entertainers. We, in the

audience think the stars are bigger than life. We discover that Dorothy is just still that little girl that loved to skate. A great story presented by a lovely lady. The book arrived in good shape and in good condition.

This is a delicious, engaging, fully involving journey through the triumphs and challenges of one of the greatest ice skaters to ever tie her laces. What a joy to relive the triumphs of the Olympics during the Cold War and be allowed to peak into the forces that created the wonder we know as Dorothy Hamill!

She was my hero when she skated for the Olympics and she still is my hero in how she triumphed through her health and emotional problems plus she does it with class.

I read this book because my sister is friends with her. I also read this book because my sister was a National Figure Skater as well and is currently in this business of managing Figure Skaters. I was pleasantly surprised to learn so much about Dorothy Hamill and how ordinary she really was in regards to other skaters who trained just like her. I thought this would be too much of a chick book but was very impressed to learn how drive and dedication are applied to the skating world. Although my sister was competitive I never truly understood what she was going through day in day out. Dorothy was able to put into words what every young child experiences who is a competitive skater into a book.

I admired the feelings of perseverance and deeply rooted bravery that was evident in your life. I'm familiar with some of the genetic obstacles you experienced and I recall them sometimes. Thanks.

Such great insight into her world and her life and how she came to be. She has been through a lot and I had no idea. It was a super easy read, touching and heartfelt. I really enjoyed getting to know her better.

I definable was not thrilled about Dorothy Hamill's book. It seemed very void of true emotion and written as a quick read. I was disappointed.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT A LITTLE MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO, THAT SKATING CUTIEY DOROTHY HAMILL WOULD ENDURE ALL THIS PAIN IN HER LIFE? DOROTHY WAS AT

THE PINACLE OF HER CAREER AS WON THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE 1976 OLYMPICS. FROM THERE HER LIFE WOULD TAKE A STEADY SPIRAL DOWN. FIRST SHE MARRIED HER FIRST HUSBAND DEAN PAUL MARTIN AND THAT ENDED IN DIVORCE. THEN ON THE REBOUND SHE MARRIED AGAIN TO A TOTAL LEECH NAMED KEN FORSYTHE WHO WOULD NOT WORK, SPEND HER MONEY AND CHEAT ON DOROTHY DURING HER PREGNANCY. ALL THIS DRAMA PLUS HER STRANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH HER PARENTS WHO BOTH STRUGGLED WITH DEPRESSION AND DRINKING. DOROTHY ALSO HAS THIS PROBLEM ALONG WITH A BIT OF ARTHRITIS AND A DECOMPRESSED VERTABRAE IN HER NECK. THAT ISN'T ALL EITHER, HER MOTHER SURVIVES BREAST CANCER AND HER FATHER DIES FROM CANCER. DOROTHY ALSO IS AFFLICTED WITH BREAST CANCER BUT THAT OCCURED AFTER THIS BOOK WAS WRITTEN. I DID LIKE THIS BOOK AS DOROTHY DOES A NICE JOB DESCRIBING HER FEELINGS AND I REALLY FELT FOR HER. SOME OF THE BOOK IS BLAND AND BORING AT TIMES BUT ALL IN ALL I LIKED IT AND FIND THAT DOROTHY IS VERY HUMAN. I PRAISE HER RESILIENCE, HONESTY AND INNER STRENGTH TO GO ON AND LEAD A HAPPY LIFE. I RECOMMEND THIS AND HOPE DOROTHY THE BEST.

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