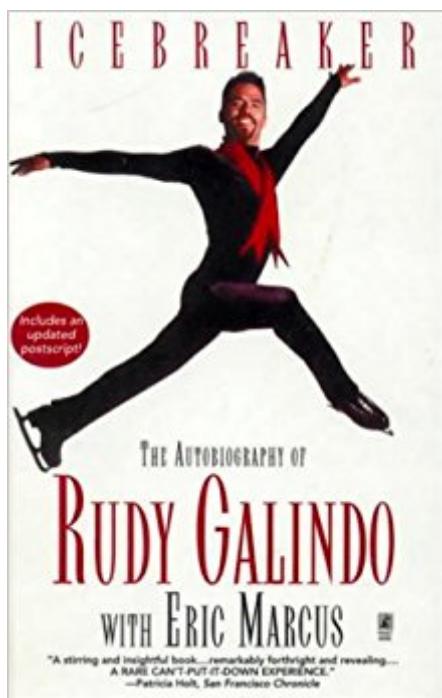


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# **Icebreaker: The Autobiography Of Rudy Galindo**



## **Synopsis**

This candid autobiography reveals the incredible inner strength that brought "Rudy Galindo" through his worst hours -- despair over the deaths of loved ones and his painful struggle with drugs and alcohol. Unwilling to hide his roots, his mistakes, or his sexual orientation, "Rudy Galindo" brings readers a lesson in humanity, proving that anything is possible, if you never quit. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Rumor has had it that many male figure skaters are homosexual. Galindo was the first to declare his gay orientation; his sometimes startling candor is revealed throughout this autobiography: "When I had sex for the first time, I didn't know I needed to practice safe sex.... you might find that hard to believe. But I was completely immersed in my skating." The youngest of three children of a Mexican American family, with a father who was supportive but tyrannical and a mother who was periodically institutionalized, Galindo grew up on the wrong side of the tracks in San Jose, Calif. His elder brother, George, also gay, was banished from the house after he came out to his parents, served a prison sentence and eventually died of AIDS. A successful young singles skater, the author joined Kristi Yamaguchi to win the U.S. National Pairs Championship in 1989 and 1990, but she decided to go her own way in 1990. Galindo was devastated but, after many vicissitudes, including the death of his father, he triumphed in the singles, winning the U.S. National Championship and finishing third in the World Championships in 1996. Much of his success he attributes to the self-sacrifice of his sister, Laura; and with the help of Marcus, who collaborated last with Greg Louganis in Breaking the

Surface, Galindo reveals his debt to her and to supportive friends. The result is a moving autobiography. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Galindo has faced more than his share of barriers on the road to fame and glory in the figure skating world. He grew up in a working-class Mexican American family, and many sacrifices had to be made to enable him to pursue an expensive dream. Although he and his partner, Kristi Yamaguchi, appeared to be headed for the Olympics, Yamaguchi ultimately decided to go the singles route. His mother suffered from mental illness, his father died of a heart attack, he was openly homosexual, and his brother and two coaches died of AIDS. However, Galindo's fortitude and determination enabled him to become the U.S. men's figure skating champion in 1996. With the help of writer Marcus, coauthor of Greg Louganis's biography *Breaking the Surface* (Random, 1995), Galindo smoothly invites the reader to share in his struggles and triumphs. Recommended.?J. Sara Pault, Coastal Plain Regional Lib., Tifton, Ga. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Such an amazing book! Truly inspiring! Enjoyed reading every page of it!

Enjoyed this biography a lot. It is nice to see a dedicated family support one another through ups and downs. Mr. Galindo had much to deal with and his story is inspiring. Fifteen years have passed since it's writing but the story will still be of interest to anyone interested in the lives of famous figure skaters or anyone dealing with gay issues in their family.

Have always been a huge fan .....book was fantastic.....what a great read!!!!

Rudy Galindo's autobiography *ICEBREAKER* is wonderful. Rudy's honest and vivid descriptions of his feelings make the reader cry and cheer right along with him. This book is an inspiration to anyone who feels that he/she is different. It is such an example of how anyone can reach his/her goal against all odds if they will work hard enough and never, never give up. Rudy Galindo is a true champion in every way -- not just on the ice -- and this book shows that beautifully.

I grew up watching figure skating over the years, and was familiar with Rudy by name only. I didn't remember much about his performances and wondered why he never made it to the Olympics. This

autobiography was a fantastic and heartbreaking look at what it takes to be a champion skater -- what it takes out of you, and what it demands of you. Galindo was never a quitter, though life tried to shut the door on his dreams many times. His passion for skating is inspiring and I couldn't wait to seek out YouTube videos of his skating after reading his story. Watching his 1996 Nationals performances brought me to tears, knowing how far he had come for that singular moment. The only thing possibly missing from this story is his sister Laura's perspective, since the biography covers so much of her life and her closeness with Rudy as well. But it is wholly Rudy's story to tell, and you cheer and cry along with him throughout. I was gutted to learn that he was diagnosed HIV+ in 2000, especially after reading the heartwrenching sections involving George's battle against AIDS, but it does make you realize how far we've come in medical advancements that Rudy's diagnosis is no longer the death sentence it was for George in the late 80's. If you enjoyed Christine Brennan's inside look at skating, you'll enjoy this biography as well.

Fans of Rudy Galindo and figure skating will enjoy this frank autobiography that leaves out nothing and gives a fascinating behind-the-scenes look into the fast-paced and sometimes heartless world of international skating. Rudy's working class family made major sacrifices to keep him in the sport, and the reader can't help but be moved. USFSA politics is exposed for what it is - they can and will scuttle a skater's career if s/he doesn't fit their "image" - and you'll shake your head yet again over the strange world of judging. Rudy tells it all, and the good news is that his career is far from over. Sequel, anyone?

I read this book..and it was..well, difficult to get through without wanting to meet him and get to know him more. He's admirably straightforward about things, and doesn't bite his tongue about anything, including himself. I can truly admire a guy who can look at himself and say he was a spoiled, self centered brat. And say it without flinching. I'd recommend this for young teenagers; the way he described his brothers demise and his drug and drinking problems made me wince. It was chilling, but you'd get a good idea of what AIDS, drugs, and drinking are really like.

This book is a wonderfully written heart-wrencher. Rudy tells the story of his personal life as well as his life on the ice. He talks about his tragedies, and setbacks. He talks about the year before that incredible night in San Jose when he was ready to give it all up. His moral is clear: never give up on your dreams. He made it as far as he did with little to no money, and just about every aspect of his life working against him in order to get to the top. This is a truly heartwarming story that will make

anyone believe that dreams really can come true.

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