

My Undoing: Love in the Thick of Sex, Drugs, Pornography, and Prostitution

By Aiden Shaw

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For the first time, porn legend Aiden Shaw takes fans behind-the-scenes to the gay adult film world that made him a star. My Undoing ventures from locales such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and London, to the sets of premiere studios like Falcon, Catalina, and Studio 200. Yet, this is not the typical adult film memoir, where stars drop names and titillate readers with explicit moments. Although My Undoing shares in unsparing detail all the hot stories about the sex and drugs that fueled Aiden's life, it more profoundly follows him through a course of rocky and unfulfilling relationships. As Aiden eloquently and often humorously points out, the romantic life of an adult film superstar is sometimes lonely and lacking in love. But not love only in the form of a relationship, rather also love from within himself. The book is equally moving for his revelations about his Irish Catholic family, his Positive HIV status in the sex industry, and his recovery from a near fatal car accident that left him temporarily paralyzed.

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
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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #542673 in Books
- Brand: Shaw, Aiden
- Published on: 2006-05-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.16" h x .82" w x 5.70" l, .71 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

If Shaw's intention was to dash fans' assumption that porn performers live the erotic, carefree life that they portray on film, he has succeeded with this dull, aimless memoir. In his preface, Shaw is brutally honest about the book's shortcomings, admitting that while he wanted to "dissect my experiences objectively and be philosophical, all I was finally able to do was testify." Unfortunately, there's no immediacy to his writing to make up for the lack of introspection. His detached cataloging of drug use and sex is passionless. The fact that he's HIV-positive and much of this sex is unsafe isn't dealt with at all. Particularly telling is his experience being struck by a car when he's too high to do anything but lie in the road; he's left with a brain lesion, broken bones and paralysis on his left side. Not every life story has to have an epiphany, but readers who suffer through his recovery are bound to feel cheated when he emerges from treatment completely unchanged. When the book ends abruptly-as if he'd run out of space in his journal and couldn't be bothered to buy a new one-he's back with Mr. Wrong.

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About the Author

Aiden Shaw has been a photographer and a director of pop promos, a model and an actor. He has an international reputation as a star of American-made hardcore films and is probably Britain's best known male sex star. His first novel, *Brutal*, published in 1996 and reprinted several times as well as translated into German and French, received wide attention in British and U.S. gay media. ("In a series of short, well-constructed, and simply written chapters the author displays quite a talent for pointed insight into the ways we communicate with friends, family, and self," praised *Lambda Book Report*; *Gay Scotland* noted: "Aiden Shaw has until now been saluted as Britain's first hardcore porn film star. With *Brutal* he demonstrates his ability to write a powerful story. He has not so much stripped bare as stripped to the soul.") His second novel, *Boundaries*, appeared in 1999; his third, *Wasted*, in 2001. He is also the author of a 1997 volume of poetry, *If Language At the Same Time Shapes and Distorts Our Ideas and Emotions, How Do We Communicate Love?* which *Mandate* praised as "a gutsy accomplishment" and about which *Time Out* observed "Aiden Shaw finally proves the pen is mightier than the penis."

Founder of the alternative rock band *Whatever*, Shaw is currently producing an album of his songs sung by Nina Silvert, with individual tracks being remixed by such diverse individuals as Todd Oldman, Chrissie Hynde, Joseph Holtzman (publisher/editor-in-chief of *Nest*), and Boy George.

His Web site is aidenshaw.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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