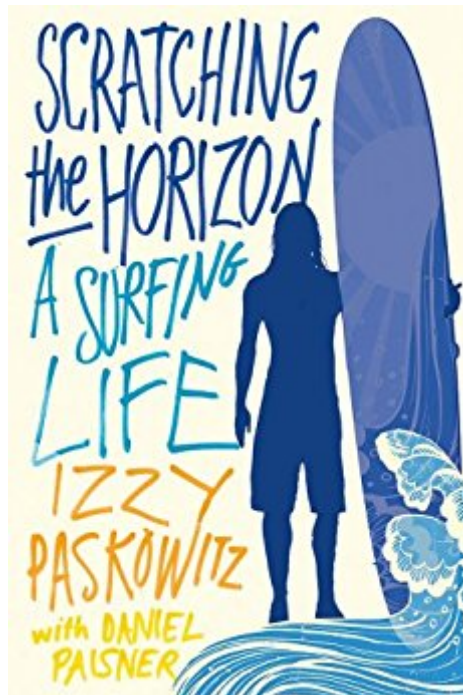


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# Scratching The Horizon: A Surfing Life



## Synopsis

A bitchin' love letter to sand and sea, and a spirited inside account of life with the "first family" of American surfing. In 1956, Dorian "Doc" Paskowitz stepped away from a successful medical practice and began a lifelong surfing odyssey that grew to include his wife Juliette, and their nine children. Together, the Paskowitz clan lived a vagabonding bohemian existence, eschewing material possessions in favor of intangible riches like health and good cheer . . . all the while careening along the world's coastlines in search of the perfect wave. In *Scratching the Horizon*, Izzy Paskowitz looks back at his unusual upbringing, and his lifelong passion for the sport that carries his family's stamp. As the fourth-oldest child in a family of inveterate surfers, rock stars, and beach bums, he is uniquely qualified to shine a light on a childhood that has come to symbolize the surfing credo, a reckless young adulthood that nearly cost him his sanity, and a maturing sense of self and purpose that allows him to lift others on the back of his experience. As the father of a son with autism and the founder of "Surfers Healing," a foundation devoted to expanding the horizons of children with autism through surfing, Paskowitz has found a way to connect the surreal aspects of his childhood to the harsh realities of adulthood, and he shares these discoveries in this wickedly entertaining and transforming memoir.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Loved this book! I have friends that know Izzy Paskowitz and it was great reading his story and also hearing about all the rough stuff with his son. It's one crazy family, but what a way to grow up! Enjoyed it from the beginning to the end.

Although the prose style is clearly that of a surfer, Izzy definitely has an interesting life story. As a supporter of the autism community, I think Surfers Healing is an amazing organization. It was interesting to learn how it came to be.

Izzy is an amazing man who has found peace with his son's autism. I personally took lessons with Surfer's Healing, Izzy organization, and have witnessed the wonderful work he does. His story is much like sitting in a room with him and listening to him casually recount his years. A wonderful, feel good read.

My autistic son was lucky enough to participate in a Surfers Healing day on a Montauk beach. He never made it onto a wave, but he had a great day! We went as a family. There are so few opportunities for 'different' families to relax and be part of a community. Surfers Healing gave that to us. When this book came out, I automatically bought it to support this big hearted couple that give so much to so many others. I thought it was the least I could do. Then I read the book! It was great! It was like listening to a new story from an old friend, and what an amazing story! I know it sounds cliché, but I really couldn't put it down. The choices Izzy's parents made were pretty radical. Good, bad or somewhere in the middle, it forces you to examine some of your own choices, and starts a conversation about values. Mostly, thank you for the open, honest depiction of life with autism. It is a rough road, lots of challenges, but not without joy and love. I highly recommend this book! Thanks!

Izzy Paskowitz didn't think his life story would fill a book. It does more than fill it. It jumps out. Izzy pulls no punches and deals with his life honestly. While most memoirs are sold by their sensationalist revelations, Izzy acknowledges the sensational parts of his life with a shrug as if to say, "I know this sounds foreign to YOU, but it was just my life." The strength of Izzy's voice in the book leave the reader feeling as though he or she is being told the story over dinner and drinks. And it zips by much too quickly. This is not just another sob story memoir, it is an intimate look into a life

that is anything but ordinary.

I surfed with Iggy at one of the Paskowitz surf camps in Cabo and he was the coolest guy to hang out with. I heard stories from Doc, met most of his family, and enjoyed what was one of my favorite vacations still today. Izzy reminded me of the typical surf dude I grew up with in Southern California. But his story is much more than that. I couldn't put his book down, I kept reading and reading and couldn't wait to get back to it when I did take a break. What a unique and interesting life he and his family have led. His openness and honesty include not only his great experiences, but all of his flaws and humanity for everyone to see. In reading his story I found myself at times envious, sometimes empathetic, and completely enthralled. What a great read! Sincerely, Aloha Rob

Izzy Paskowitz had a legendary surf lifestyle upbringing among eight brothers and a sister sired by counter-culture rebel Doc Paskowitz. Probably like most, I got onto this book after watching the fascinating documentary about the family, Surfwise, and I wanted to know more. Izzy rambles through the good, the bad, the ugly of growing up wild but crammed into a camper with so many siblings. There is a strong voice here, but the book could be more vivid, dramatized in scenes; it's more a series of anecdotes. I was about to give up on it until Izzy began to relate his competitive surfing career, his marriage, and his trials with an autistic son. At last, something felt at stake. You realize its title should have been Scratching FOR the Horizon, since that's what surfers do, and paddling hard for the clear distance is a metaphor for Izzy's growth. He's hard on himself for his immaturity and self-centeredness, but of course he was raised to be a surf bum, not a husband, provider, father. He discusses and sometimes depicts his uneven growth and his wife's pain. So finally the book's experienced wordsmith, Daniel Paisner, gets Izzy's memoir rolling, putting behind it its meandering early structure. Izzy is a likable guy with some great stories to tell, and I am glad to have spent time with him. You can't help but root for him and to wish him the best.

I met Doc, Daniel and Izzy this past summer in NC at Surfers Healing. My son has participated as his is autistic. He loves the fact that he has been part of something so special and wonderful. It is amazing how it all began and this book also told my story of coping with the realization that our family was going to be different. A wonderful gut wrenching story with a pretty fun beginning about Doc and his parenting....

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