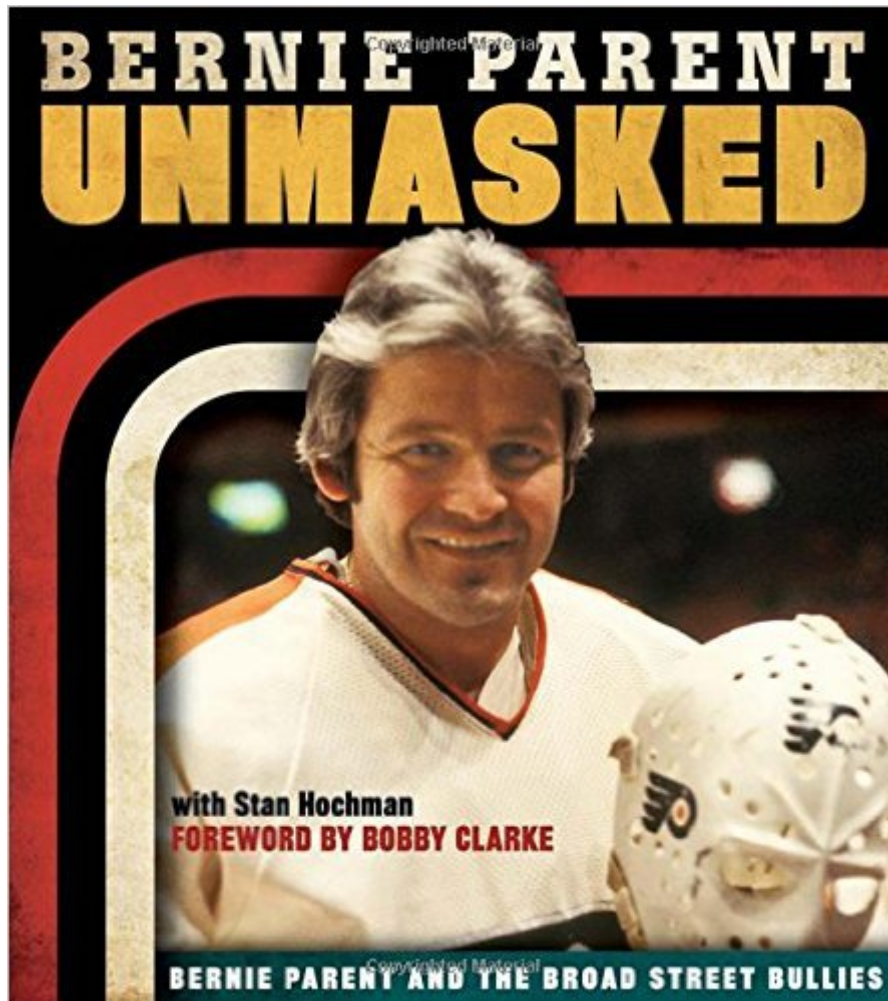


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Unmasked: Bernie Parent And The Broad Street Bullies



Synopsis

In a city known as home to some of the sporting world's biggest stars, few have ever shined as brightly as the Philadelphia Flyers' Bernie Parent, and this autobiography shares how he became one of the most sensational goalies in NHL history. The catchphrase "Only the Lord saves more than Bernie Parent" became ubiquitous in Philadelphia as Parent won two Vezina Trophies as the league's top goaltender, two Conn Smythe Trophies as playoff MVP, and two Stanley Cup championships, but this work shows how his on-the-ice exploits were only a part of his amazing story. After suffering a career-ending eye injury in 1979, Parent's life took a turn for the worse, a time during which he battled alcoholism and watched his marriage end in divorce. In the end, however, facing the fears that had plagued him all his life led Parent to find solace and happiness once again. In *Unmasked*, Parent traces his life and career from his days as a youngster learning to skate to his current role as a Flyers ambassador and public speaker. Featuring rare photos from his personal archive and accompanying text from legendary Philadelphia sports columnist Stan Hochman, this life story gives Parent's millions of fans a never-before-seen glimpse into the life of a hockey icon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have a lot of respect for Bernie Parent; he had a real good career. This book unfortunately does not go into enough detail about his playing career, especially in the WHA and his many playoff battles with the Flyers. There are a lot of action photos in the book, which probably cuts down on the available text. Also, the description of his eye injury is a little bit vague. At the time of his traumatic

eye injury, I read in the newspapers that it was a detached retina. In his book, he states that his retina was fine and the actual trauma was to his intraocular lens (ie- structure removed with cataract surgery). Fortunately for Bernie with new technology some 15 years later, he was give a new lens implant that restored his vision to 20/20 in the injured eye...

Even as a Bruins fan, I enjoyed reading Bernie's book! Not sure why is requiring me to write 10 more words. The fact that I am a Bruins fan should speak volumes.

A quick reading autobiography of one of the greatest, most charismatic goalies of the post-Original 6 hockey era. Bernie Parent has quite a story to tell, and aided by some beautiful action pictures, makes his points. Parent was the last line of defense in the Philadelphia Flyers back to back Stanley Cup run in the 1970's. One of the most popular and well respected goalies of all-time, Parent was at the apex of his career when a freak accident ended his career, and caused blindness in one eye. He spiraled through depression, alcoholism, and self-doubt, but pulled himself out of it to lead a productive and fulfilling second career. Goalies are a breed apart, yet many look back on their careers with a surplus of fulfillment and an absence of bitterness. Parent is no exception. Although he scaled to the mountaintops of the sports world, he retains humility. He gave a \$10,000 reward to the team trainer, because the trainer needed it more. Though the book can sound anachronistic, because of the seemingly paltry amounts of money the players received in the 1970's, Parent's story is very real. This is a quick book to cover, but for the middle aged hockey fan, a fulfilling read.

What a thoughtfully put together book this is: both a photographic essay, and well written prose. Parent comes off as a very sympathetic figure, as does his former coach (Fred Shero), on a team that few hockey fans of that era sympathized with, unless they were Flyer fans. Stan Hochman's hand is clearly evident in the book, as well. His personal connection to that team as a sportswriter for the "Philadelphia Daily News" really adds to the over all presentation.

We are Flyers fans who appreciate Bernie's honesty and humor. I bought it for my husband as part of his Valentine's Day gift. Fewer calories than chocolate and... both my husband and myself, enjoyed Bernie's book.

Bought it as a present for my favorite Aunt who is originally from Philly. Her and her entire family were Flyers fans from the very beginning. Any Flyer fan would love this book. A must have for any

Flyer fan.

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