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Becoming Westerly: Surf Legend Peter Drouyn's Transformation Into Westerly Windina



Synopsis

In the sixties and seventies, Australian Peter Drouyn was one of the world's greatest surfers. He pioneered an aggressive approach called "power surfing," introduced the man-on-man competition format, and charged giant waves in Hawaii. A Zelig figure, he took on many roles—method actor, surf resort owner, modeling school founder, and lawyer to name but a few. For nearly the past decade, Peter has been living as a woman, Westerly Windina, a complex, aspiring entertainer. Beginning with her 2012 trip to Bangkok for gender reassignment surgery, *BECOMING WESTERLY* traces Peter Drouyn's odyssey from teenage Queensland hopeful to 1960s surf champion to embittered has-been who struggles to rise again as the glamorous, sixty-four-year-old Westerly. Surf journalist Jamie Brisick provides an intimate exploration of global surf culture—a nuanced portrait of Peter/Westerly and the world that shaped her evolving identity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ok, so I finished reading the book: "Becoming Westerly: Surf Champion Peter Drouyn's Transformation Into Westerly Windina" last week, and there are two things that I would really like to impart about it: 1. Author Jamie Brisick has written a memoir that really deserves to be appreciated outside of the surf genre. It is written in a fluid and easy style that makes this glimpse of the Surf World accessible to any reader. Meanwhile, beautifully descriptive language holds you prisoner to the narrative for the duration of what is truly a wild ride - eventually depositing you somewhere on the sand, a different person for having read it. 2. Be prepared, it sticks with you. Three days later, I found myself still haunted by this tale. Thought provoking, funny, and at times - heartbreaking, it

stirs up questions that bubble up begging to be answered even now- a week later, and for the foreseeable future... which is why I am looking forward to the film! A truly great read- but if you won't take my word for it- here's an online review: <https://youtu.be/4wb6lfFBx2Y> Oh yeah... and also the LA Times:

<http://www.latimes.com/books/jacketcopy/la-ca-jc-jamie-brisick-20150802-story.html> AND http://www.surflife.com/surf-news/surf-champion-peter-drouyns-transformation-into-westerly-windina-book-review-becoming-westerly_129195 <http://beachgrit.com/2015/01/audio-jamie-brisick-book-becoming-westerly> <http://whatyouth.com/photos/conversation-with-interviews-with-interesting-people/conversation-with-jamie-brisick-author-of-becoming-westerly-talks-about-his-new-book-on-transgender-surfer-westerly-windina/>

More than a surf book, an insightful look into a complicated human who happened to be one of the unsung heroes of modern surfing. Eyeopening and often funny with amazing historical context that travels time to understand the present day realities of a several particular cultures and this time we live in.

Incredibly well-written biography of a fascinating and complex character. This is a different type of biography though because the author takes you along with him as he discovers more and more what makes Westerly the person she has become. No-one could have written this except Brisick because he knows and loves the world Westerly came from but at the same time loves that she is helping to change the culture of that overly-macho scene.

Remarkable story, well written by Brisick.

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