



Odd Man Rush: A Harvard Kid's Hockey Odyssey from Central Park to Somewhere in Sweden—with Stops along the Way

By Bill Keenan



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In his hilarious, gritty, and touching debut, Bill Keenan—a hockey star once on the fast-track to the NHL—tells of how he overcame multiple obstacles to find fulfillment and redemption in the strange world of European minor-league professional hockey.

Keenan's hockey obsession begins as a five-year-old on Lasker Rink in New York's Central Park—"love at first stride," as he calls it. He then becomes the youngest, and skinniest, player on the New York Bobcats, a Junior B hockey team. Later, after his hockey career at Harvard doesn't end as planned—with a fat NHL contract—Keenan decides to play in the minor leagues in Europe, where the glamour of professional sports is decidedly lacking.

Part fish-out-of-water travelogue, part coming-of-age memoir, *Odd Man Rush* will capture the interest of not just hockey fans, but also fans of good writing. Throughout, Keenan's deep affection for the game shines through, even as he describes fans who steal players' clothes from the locker room or toss empty beer cans onto the rink after games. Abusive fans, cold showers, long bus rides—nothing diminishes his love for the sport. "Because that's the way it works with me and hockey. Even when it's horrible, it's wonderful."

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Editorial Review

Review

"In this uproarious new memoir, a New York-raised hockeyphenom high-sticks his way from youth camps to the Ivy League to thefrozen purgatory of Europe's minor leagues, rubbing shoulder pads withAll-Stars, has-beens, and a horde of hostile Germans along the way."

-*Vanity Fair*

'Ball Four' meets hockey; slap shots abound

-*The Buffalo News*

"Last time I saw Billy, he stepped on a puck at Harvard practiceand almost took my head off with his stick when he fell. His writingwon't hurt you, but it will make you laugh."

-**Alex Killorn**, forward, Tampa Bay Lightning

"Giving us more than a hockey book, Bill Keenan fills an arena with wit, passion, and good old story-telling. Both exotic and at the same time homespun and heartfelt, Keenan's story captures the fear andawkwardness of a stranger in a strange land. This guy has been there and the details are just right."

-**Bill Gaston**, author of six short-story collections, five books including *Midnight Hockey*, and winner of the CBC Canadian Literary Award, the National Magazineaward, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and the Victoria Book Prize

"From the prestige of Harvard NCAA to the humbling European minorleagues, an honest and often hilarious look at a side of the hockeyworld that is not very well known and rarely written about."

-**Neil Smith**, President and G.M. of the 1994 Stanley Cup Champion New York Rangers, and current NHL analyst for Rogers Sportsnet

"This might be Bill Keenan's first book--but it won't be his last. His bang-on descriptions of the characters he played with and thecoaches he toiled under will literally have you laughing out loud. Even if you've never been to the leafy Ivy League, or tried to score on (or off!) the ice in Sweden, he has you skating right along with him. Oneof the best hockey memoirs out there--Keenan definitely scores on thisOdd Man Rush."

-**Deb Placey**, NHL Network and MSG Network hockey host

"An uproarious new memoir..."

-*Vanity Fair*

"Keenan's life story proves a journeyman's journey makes for one great read. . . He was a minor-leaguer, but his storytelling is major league."

-**Sal Barry**, *The Hockey News*

About the Author

Bill Keenan played hockey at Harvard University from 2005 to 2008 and professionally in Europe from 2009 to 2012. He no longer plays the game but still has hockey hair. He is currently pursuing his MBA at Columbia Business School and lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Walton:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Odd Man Rush: A Harvard Kid's Hockey Odyssey from Central Park to Somewhere in Sweden—with Stops along the Way book as this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Phillip Chadwick:

Typically the book Odd Man Rush: A Harvard Kid's Hockey Odyssey from Central Park to Somewhere in Sweden—with Stops along the Way has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research prior to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

Julie Berkey:

Exactly why? Because this Odd Man Rush: A Harvard Kid's Hockey Odyssey from Central Park to Somewhere in Sweden—with Stops along the Way is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will surprise you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were being you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Marian Knight:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray a person, why because this Odd Man Rush: A Harvard Kid's Hockey Odyssey from Central Park to Somewhere in Sweden—with Stops along the Way book written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still question Odd Man Rush: A Harvard Kid's Hockey Odyssey from Central Park to Somewhere in Sweden—with Stops along the Way as good book not only by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't evaluate book by its include, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick that!?. Oh come on your examining sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

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