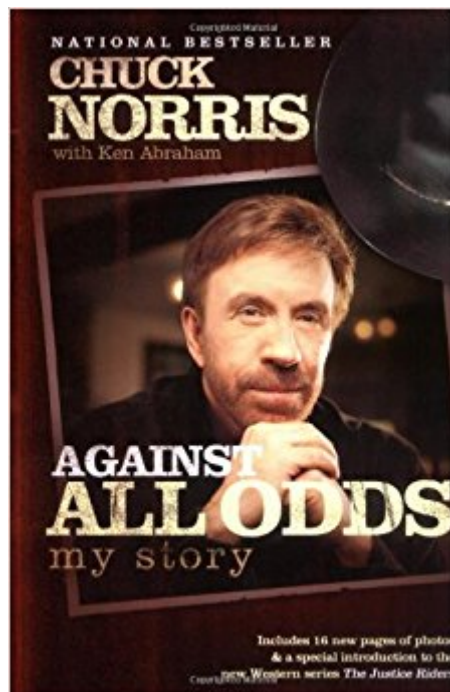


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# Against All Odds: My Story



## Synopsis

A New York Times best seller. Millions of people worldwide know Chuck Norris as the star of more than twenty motion pictures, a martial arts expert, and the only man in the Western Hemisphere to hold an eighth degree Black Belt Grand Master in Tae Kwon Do. Countless others see him daily in syndicated reruns as the hero of the longest running CBS series to date, "Walker, Texas Ranger." What many don't know is that Chuck Norris is a sincere Christian—a man whose faith plays a role in everything he does. *Against All Odds* is the inspirational story of how Norris overcame abject poverty from childhood, the effects of his father's alcoholism and desertion of the family, and his own shyness and lack of strength and ability early in his life. Norris writes candidly about the past and gives God full credit for where he is today.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: B&H Books; Reprint edition (September 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805444211

ISBN-13: 978-0805444216

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 511 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #169,978 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Martial Arts #196 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Theater > Acting & Auditioning #290 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Martial Arts

## Customer Reviews

In this autobiography, Norris and Abraham catalogue in a mostly chronological fashion the major events of Norris's Horatio Alger-like life. After a tumultuous and impoverished childhood marred by an alcoholic father, Norris turned his life around by joining the military and learning a martial art, tang soo do, while stationed in Korea. Having achieved a black belt, he returned to the United States and built a career as a karate instructor, winning six world championships. Norris counted many celebrities among his students, including Steve McQueen, who, along with Bruce Lee, encouraged Norris to pursue a film and television career. Even though Norris and Abraham

employ a bland style of reportage, often bereft of smooth transitions and replete with empty phrases such as "I've always had a special place in my heart for children," the facts of Norris's life make this book compelling. Not only has he succeeded in martial arts and acting, but he has a long, eclectic list of additional achievements and experiences, such as breaking a world record in boat racing and being a close friend of the Bush family. While this book is being promoted as a Christian autobiography, Norris did not fully embrace a Christian lifestyle until the mid-1990s. Despite its limited spiritual content, this memoir will please those who admire Norris's achievements and conservative activism. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Chuck Norris is a legendary film and television actor best known for his popular series Walker, Texas Ranger, now in syndication to millions worldwide. He is also a martial arts expert, an active humanitarian and founder of KICKSTART, and author of the New York Times best-selling autobiography *Against All Odds*. Norris also writes a column that appears in *Human Events*, *Town Hall*, and *World Net Daily*, among other outlets. He lives with his wife Gena and their children near Houston, Texas. Ken Abraham is a New York Times best-selling author known for getting "more heart on paper than any other cowriter in America" in books with 9/11 United Flight 93 widow Lisa Beamer (*Let's Roll!*), financial expert Dave Ramsey, action hero Chuck Norris, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, and others.

This is the story of Carlos Norris, aka Chuck, and how he achieved fame and fortune rising from a poor childhood and raised partly by an alcoholic father. About two-thirds of the book centers on his rise in the world of martial arts, which is, of course, what he is so famous for. Don't get me wrong, it is interesting to see how he went from one competition to another, each time rising higher and higher. Gritting determination and ambition, striving each time to better himself are admirable qualities he acquires along the way. But during those many chapters, I wanted to see how his home life was faring, where his faith was, and other aspects of his life besides his wins (and a few losses). Only in the last chapters of the book are those questions addressed, and, to be honest, I was a bit tired of reading about each and every one of his many matches. I think he could have summarized a few of them together, but, I suppose he really wanted to show how hard he worked to prepare himself physically, mentally, and spiritually. He worked hard and it showed. The book is well written and reads easily, as if he were speaking to the reader, and since I wanted to read about the other aspects in his life, I read it quickly and finished it in about two days. But I don't think I'll read it again,

which I sometimes do if I really, really, enjoy the book. If you enjoy and understand more about martial arts than I do, you might get more out of it.

For some reason I was not able to show half a star so I am stuck with four stars. Which is all right since I enjoyed this book. I would have named the book *Against the Odds* rather than *All Odds* but it is a story in which there are obstacles that are overcome. I don't know if Chuck had a ghost writer but the book sounds like him. Since I have delayed writing this review, the details have faded but it is not a great book nor is it riveting. But it is a good read and I found it easy to stay with and complete. Those of you who might think it will be too political will not be annoyed. Personally I would have liked more insight into his conservative views but other some general statements and his Christian upbringing you don't learn much. He does reveal his moral failures though I was disappointed to read about them nonetheless. There is more detail on his martial arts than some of you might appreciate and I must admit, I skimmed a little of that but it was more interesting to me than I would have imagined since I know nothing about such competitions or skills. I didn't really become aware of Chuck Norris until *Walker Texas Ranger* got my attention. I have never considered him a consummate actor of any particular depth but I do like the persona he reveals in his television role. He is a very likeable guy even if your politics are different from his. I recommend this book.

I have always liked Chuck Norris and his ability to make sense of something so many try to make ridiculous in the martial arts field. I have enjoyed many of his later movies because of the message of strength and decency. The book held my interest and is well worth the time needed to read.

I've always kind of liked Chuck Norris, but now I am a real fan. This is a tell all autobiography that tells all about his life. And he has had an amazing life. He is now using his resources to help many people,. Good read!!!

What an inspirational story. I often refer to events related in this book when talking to students on the edge of dropping out of school.

A great example of God's mercy working in man's life even when he doesn't realize it. The best part of this book is when Chuck Norris realizes it is God at work!

I enjoyed reading about Chuck Norris's life. The only part I did not understand was the rationale for the lengthy "infomercial" chapter for the exercise equipment. It made me wonder if the book should have been free, as a promotional vehicle. That said, the major portion of the book was very interesting. Even though I have never been a very big Chuck Norris fan, it is still interesting to get a glimpse into someone else's life.

This book is like sitting down and having a conversation with Chuck Norris where he not only tells you his life story, but about his journey with God, and where he hopes this journey will take him

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