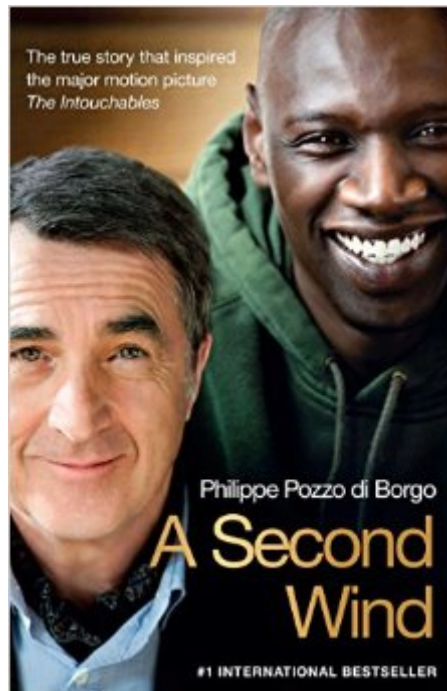


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A Second Wind: The True Story That Inspired The Motion Picture The Intouchables



Synopsis

“He was unbearable, vain, proud, brutal, inconsistent, human. Without him, I would have rotted to death. . . . He was my guardian devil.” As the descendant of two prominent French families and director of one of the world’s most celebrated champagne houses, Philippe Pozzo di Borgo was not someone in the habit of asking for help. Then, in 1993, right on the heels of his wife being diagnosed with a terminal illness, a paragliding accident left him a quadriplegic. Passing his days hidden behind the high walls of his Paris townhouse, Philippe found himself the modern equivalent of an “untouchable” — unable to reach out to others, as others were afraid to reach out to him. The only person who seemed unaffected by Philippe’s condition was someone who had been marginalized his entire life — Abdel, the unemployed, uninhibited Algerian immigrant who would become his unlikely caretaker. In between dramas and jokes, he sustained Philippe’s life for the next ten years. *A Second Wind*, the basis for the major motion picture *The Intouchables*, is the inspiring true story of two men who refused to ask for help, and then wound up helping each other.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I saw the movie, "The Intouchables," and while I thoroughly enjoyed it, I also believed much of it had to be fantasy--that Abdel would not be able to change so much, so rapidly (in a year), and that a variety of other things couldn't be true. So I bought and read both "A Second Wind" by Phillippe Pozzo (& "You Saved My Life" by Abdel Sellou -- reviewed under its title). Both are worthwhile. So is the movie but it's essentially a feel good, inspirational, comedic fairy tale with a bit of reality and with

large doses of made-up comedy. Phillippe's book gives you a lot of the similar kind of reality I imagine you'd get from reading the book that served as the basis for movie, "The Diving Bell & the Butterfly"-- the story of another French quadraplegic who managed to tell his story just before he died. Phillippe's is just as moving and perhaps more so. We find out how devoted he was to his first wife, Beatrice; that Abdel worked with Phillippe for a year before she died and then for 9 years after. We feel the pain and become astounded by the courage that Phillippe as a quadraplegic shows and so continually demonstrates. What a remarkable man, now devoting himself and many of his resources to others who are disabled. You won't get much of the comedy that the writers/directors suffused "The Intouchables" with. But you will get a first person account from a man with remarkable, admirable courage and empathy.

If you liked the movie, the book will disappoint you. It has none of the playfulness of the movie and concentrates largely on romance and sexual longing.

Another book I picked up because the trailer to the movie looked funny. There were many humorous one liners and stories, but the physical pain and heart break expressed by Philippe Pozzo di Borgo was over whelming to read, yet I couldn't stay away. I finished the book with a greater appreciation of others pain and experiences different from my own.

The kind of true story that bring tearful eyes, hoped to the soul. I, loved and know that any viewer will.

I saw the very funny movie inspired by the book some time ago. Having nothing else to read I picked up the book in a bookshop yesterday, I haven't put it down since. The style of writing is deeply involving, it tells of the personal experience and suffering through physical illness in a heartfelt way with great tenderness.

Ok for someone else, but I was disappointed. I thought this was going to be more of a "over come" book and how the accident inspired like reading the book by "Joni". But it was scattered in thought, and with very little background about the different people in his life. Parts of the book was OK, I tried to get into it, because the authors unique situation and accident. Maybe a younger reader might like it. I just wanted more of a story. Not seen the motion picture, maybe it's better.?

Loved The Intouchables. A Second Wind is the fascinating autobiography of the main character; the story of a man who becomes completely paralyzed in a bizarre accident, then loses the love of his life. The joy is that he is never self pitying. The book is somewhat disjointed, more a collection of his memories than a chronological retelling of his life.

I thought the book would be a better read. It was informative, but I could have lived without it. It has a happy ending, which I appreciate. I'd love to meet Phillippe in person. He is an amazing man.

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