


# The Tao of Bruce Lee: A Martial Arts Memoir

*By Davis Miller*

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**The Tao of Bruce Lee: A Martial Arts Memoir** By Davis Miller

In this companion volume to his critically acclaimed first book, **The Tao of Muhammad Ali**, Davis Miller turns his attention to a second iconic figure of the twentieth century--and another of Miller's own seminal influences: film star and martial arts legend Bruce Lee.

Just weeks after completing Enter the Dragon, his first vehicle for a worldwide audience, Bruce Lee--the self-proclaimed world's fittest man--died mysteriously at the age of thirty-two. The film has since grossed over $500 million, making it one of the most profitable in the history of cinema, and Lee has acquired almost mythic status.

Lee was a flawed, complex, yet singular talent. He revolutionized the martial arts and forever changed action moviemaking. But what has his legacy truly meant to the fans he left behind? To author Davis Miller, Lee was a profound mentor and a transformative inspiration. As a troubled young man in rural North Carolina, Miller was on a road to nowhere when he first saw Enter the Dragon, an encounter that would lead him on a physical, emotional, and spiritual journey and would change his life.

**As in The Tao of Muhammad Ali**, Miller brilliantly combines biography--the fullest, most unflinching and revelatory to date--with his own coming-of-age story. The result is a unique and compelling book.

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**The Tao of Bruce Lee: A Martial Arts Memoir By Davis Miller Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From Library Journal
First, it should be understood that this book is less about Bruce Lee than about the author and Lee's influence on his life. During his adolescent years, the diminutive, troubled Miller was probably the only guy on the planet who could have had the hurt put on him by the 98-pound weakling of Charles Atlas ads. Then came Muhammad Ali and Bruce LeeDa large man who moved with preternatural grace and a small man whose punching power almost matched his blinding speed. Both seemed almost to "do it with mirrors" and, reasoned the young Miller, perhaps so could he, as he devoted his life to kickboxing and in the process discovered that he did, indeed, have a life. In his first book, The Tao of Muhammad Ali, Miller already honored one hero. In this one, after telling his story, Miller spends not quite half the book on Lee's saga, gently debunking many myths. If Lee fanatics stay around this long, it's worth the wait, though they might take exception to some of what Miller has to say. Recommended for larger public libraries.DJim Burns, Ottumwa P.L., IA
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From Booklist
The title is deceptive. This fantastic second book by Miller runs deeper than an account of the author growing up as a "karate kid" in the early 1970s. It is equally a study of the nature and role of the hero in popular culture, a poignant and unusual coming-of-age story, and an informative biography of Bruce Lee. As with Muhammad Ali, the author's other childhood hero (*The Tao of Muhammad Ali* [1996], Lee was part of the select group of athletes who transcended sports to become international pop culture icons. Miller begins the story with his own dismal childhood in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His mother died early in his life; he was a miserable child and adolescent--scrawny, with few friends and no apparent academic or vocational gifts or inclinations. Watching Lee in *Enter the Dragon* in 1973 changed his life. Miller began a lifelong interest in martial arts and Eastern philosophy. In the late 1980s, he traded his punching bags for a computer and became a writer and journalist, and it is his skill as a storyteller that really makes *Tao* shine. He beautifully illuminates the pitfalls and triumphs of Lee's early life, captivating the reader. In the end, he dispels many of the myths behind Bruce Lee the man that captivated him as a youth, myths about Lee's ability as a karate god and mystic seer. In the end, Miller comes to terms with the smaller man behind his larger-than-life hero. *Ted Leventhal*
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Review
I loved Davis Miller's The Tao of Bruce Lee, a book about hero worship. -- *Tony Parsons, author, MAN AND BOY; DAILY MAIL (London) April 7, 2000*

Miller's approach combines affection and iconoclasm . . . He is good on Lee's cross-cultural borrowings and the very American process of self-creation -- *Times Literary Supplement, August 18, 2000*

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