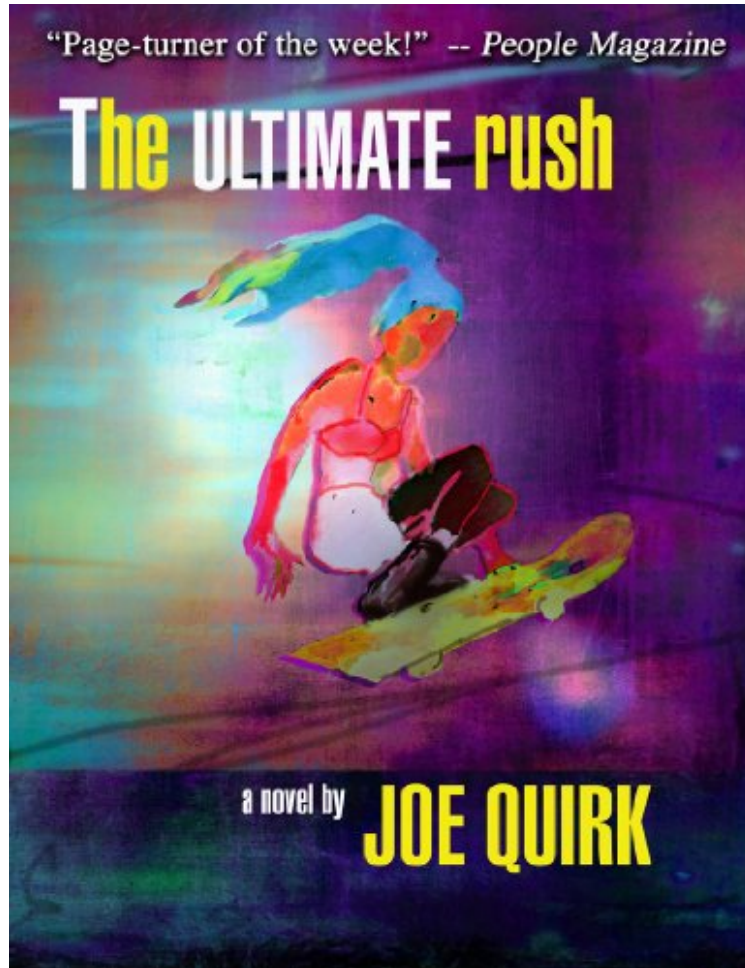


[Download pdf ebook] The Ultimate Rush (English Edition)

## The Ultimate Rush (English Edition)

Von Joe Quirk

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**Von Joe Quirk : The Ultimate Rush (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ultimate Rush (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It's so much more than you think. Von Ein KundeI have read The Ultimate Rush several times, and I think everybody is loving it for the wrong reasons. This may sound crazy, but I am terrified that The Ultimate Rush will be consigned to the list of summer bestselling beach reads, and not recognized as the remarkable literary achievement that it so obviously is. To me it is almost a tragedy that such an interesting and layered novel should be written with such forward momentum that most of my book group readers sound like they experience it merely as a page turner. Everybody is talking about thepop culture references to the Incredible Hulk and Scooby Doo, but in Quirk's refences I also see Beowulf, the Iliad, Kafka, Nietche, Freud of course, Dante, as well as George Lucas and Looney Tunes. (Yes, I am an English teacher.) This hip book is fascinating because Joe Quirk wrote it at every level. The novel reminds me

of Mozart's surface simplicity that hides intense interior complexity. On the surface are hey-dud! e lingo and penis jokes, but beneath the blatant commerciality is real literary quality. It's not just "the language." It's in the interactions, the growth, the incredibly complex system of symbols underlying everything, the interior struggles, the levels of stark reality he underlays beneath the action fantasy surface. Chet and Denny and Ho are classical characters modernized and trapped in super hero costumes. The gangsters, on the other hand, are completely subsumed in their comic book identities-- even their real names are stolen from them and replaced with Star Trek names. Chet is constantly fighting against yet is seduced by "the machine," which is represented in the computer, the snake, the corporate industry that owns Chet, oppresses him, and yet whose power he lusts for. Chet recognizes that his enemies are inside him, that his real enemy is the hacker's lust to dehumanize himself for the power of mechanization. This is all like Sauron's Ring in Tolke! in, King Arthur's Excalibur, Luke Skywalker's Light Saber. ! Frodo must battle not to become Gollum. King Arthur battles not to become his evil progeny. Luke's battle is not become his father Darth Vader. Chet's battle is not to become a cartoon. It's all there. The three tattoos, the three pets, the three main characters, the three bad guys, the rollerblades and skateboards and wheelchair-- even the remote controls and computer codes and phones are all injected with mythical power. The dog, the snake, the bus, the sun, mirrors, the fly, the underworlds, MP Phred, even the names, especially Griffin and Pixie-- these are not just static symbols. Chet's changing relationship to them traces the dynamic flow of his interior world. Almost every paragraph is laden with rich veins of meaning that continually crop up through the narrative. And the dying dog in Ho's arms (pg 323 of British edition) is a stunning references to Michelangelos "Pieta," with the disabled Denny looking on "like a shepherd." It's a striki! ng assertion of what Quirk believes is sacred, and what is crucified. The madonna is a punk girl called Ho, Jesus is a dog with a wound in his side who has just sacrificed himself for their sins, and a man with cerebral palsy is their trusty attendant. The spirit of Bobby, Chet's crack addict brother, hovers like the Holy Spirit. They are all "scissored inside a white triangle of light" as if Quirk is carving a slice of light out of a pie of darkness, or "scissoring" off a page corner and laying it before us. The crucified dog is the innocent selfless love in the characters, as Quirk makes plainly clear. And thrillers are filled with violence, but Quirk makes getting shot into the modern crucifixion-- "crucified by a thousand flying nails." We've all read exciting action scenes, but profound action scenes?0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This is a novel to be EXPERIENCED.Von Ein KundeIf I were to recommend only one novel, this would be that book. For me, this novel contains a tremendous message. Some of his characters suggest real-life personalities. Mel Corlini, a former candidate for mayor, has a sister named Gina. In the 1970's there was a mayor Alioto who was about as lovable as Mel; Alioto's daughter is not prominent in SF politics, and I need not tell you what her first name is. Also Wozniak and Heitfreund reference real-life characters. Joe Quirk has rearranged the geography of SF to fit his concept of reality. I would guess this is his way of telling us right from the start we are in a parrallel SF universe. Joe Quirk has taken the marginalized in society and made them into protagonists we admire. As to what real-life "punks", "boarders", and "hackers" are like, I have no idea. They're outlaws, that's the essence. OUTLAWS. The SF of Ho and Chet is a world where the muddle-heads run loose, and decent people are pushed into outlawry, as in the days of Robin Hood. And as occasionally happens in real life, the outlaws who succeed are invited to join the corrupt power brokers. Quirk's novel presents a twisted society which corrupts those who join it. Even the idealistic Denny, basically a very dedicated and courageous person, is not immune. Chet and Ho chose not to join, and things don't go too great for them, but they are not corrupted, and they have a very good relationship with each other. Just about everything Chet and Ho do is shocking. In one scene Chet is hoping to hear details of lesbian sex. And when we actually see them have sex ... oh boy. And yet, what we see is a very caring relationship develop between two very strange people who treat each other with respect. In this world of dysfunctional families, they create a viable alternative relationship that the corrupt power-brokers could never be capable of. That is the novel, mind-expanding, and set in a real place with a major street intentionally left out. It was chosen for publication by an editor willing to make a courageous decision. There's hope! Or is there? Will Joe Quirk's book really make a difference? Probably not. Many will read it, enjoy it, and go back to the same old thing.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. In Defense of Joe QuirkVon Ein KundeIn defense of Mr. Quirk, his first novel is original, striking and likeable. I believe the two common knocks against it are unfounded.First, I believe he purposely fudged on SF geography so as not to attract a horde of juveniles performing daredevil skateboard/rollerblade stunts on SF hills. As life imitates art, I believe Mr. Quirk did not want to wake up one morning with the headlines of some poor kid actually trying to race down "watermelon" hill without success, so to speak. You have to allow an author this latitude and license.Second, street language will always be dated by the time a novel comes out, but here it is no more dated than say, Huckleberry Finn. That is, the dialect is appropriate and realistic for the setting. The Chronicle reviewer proved by his objection to this that he is not even qualified to have a literary opinion.As to The Ultimate Rush itself, to me, it stands for the birth of a major writer who beat the odds and still imbued his work with art. To get published the author was required to employ a murder/mystery plot, comic characters, and multiple action/case scenes. These artifices were seen as necessary devices to attract a mass audience. The publisher would not take a "real" chance on an unknown author without them. By real chance I mean contracting for more than the usual minimum advance - being published with a promotional budget and book tour. The miracle of The Ultimate Rush is that Quirk was able to employ all of these pretexts

successfully (stock characters, chase scenes, standard tv plot) and still create art. You see, underneath all of these lowest common denominator devices, there exists a genuine accomplishment. Quirk actually chronicles the feelings, comments and thoughts of the juvenile imagination of the time. When Surfer-dude says, "hey, f\*\*k-boy" to Chet, you know in your bones that this smacks of real life, the type of all too casual homophobia that most sensitive youths had to put up with, and which! we ought to try to change. By getting at these "ultimate" truths about the prejudices of modern life and its subcultures, we all see ourselves a little, the good and bad sides and hopefully become more aware - and these merits without a sermon. In fact, Chet is close to an archetypical, socially critical, anti-hero in the best tradition of modernism. With his humor, quips, jibes and keen description he tries to get at what the renowned literary critic Lionel Trilling called the defining quality of the modern novel, that is, Chet tries to get at the "underlying reality of things." But the existential quality of this is not a heavy ponderous one. You might not even realize it's there until you think about the novel later. Yes, the modernist quality is almost pure subtext. Lastly, *The Ultimate Rush* is also a thrill ride of nonstop description. The language is full of art and music, which carry the reader along gleefully. There is an enormous amount of mental energy that one just has to sit back and admire. What is most important, the novel is "panoramic" with its page after page of near perfectly sequenced images. This is a major and original literary feat and one that should be celebrated. Quirk has accomplished in spades what the celebrated author and teacher John Gardner stated as a goal of good fiction writing: to create a veritable cinema behind the eyelids of the reader. Given the new educational studies that show practicing music and/or art a few hours a week will make one smarter, this is reason enough to buy *The Ultimate Rush*. Reading Mr. Quirk's original language with its art and music (even with its mass audience devices and pretexts) might just make us all a little smarter.

**Kurzbeschreibung**The cult classic:*The Ultimate Rush* by Joe Quirk San Francisco. Downhill. No brakes. Chet Griffin, San Francisco's fastest rollerblading messenger, was given a simple assignment. But that delivery turned real deadly, real fast. Seems the package he was carrying contained a single computer disk-- worth a cool billion. On a routine run, one of Chet's co-workers gets murdered, the fingers pointed at Chet, and he finds himself running for his life. Chet enlists the help of his skaterchick bisexual buddy and his superhacker roommate, and takes off across the city to track down the evidence he needs to bring down a financial Ponzi scheme that uncannily foretells our current crisis. On a wild ride through SF's sloping streets and the twisted channels of cyberspace, Joe Quirk delivers a hip, sexy game of cat-and-mousepad that will leave you breathless. This retro classic takes place in the nineties, before cell phones and ipods, when Google was still called BackRub, and beepers were cool. Exciting a witty, skillfully paced action thriller.-- The New York Times Book Page-turner of the week!" -- People Magazine This book flat-out rocks .. some of the best action writing I've ever read.-- Christopher Moore, author of *Lamb* and *You Suck*"One of the best opening sequences of any novel I've read. A Gen-X novel with the crucial addition of a plot.-- Richmond .de If you thought Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock on a bus was thrilling, wait until you meet Chet Griffin, the hero of Joe Quirk's first novel, *The Ultimate Rush*. Chet makes his living as the only rollerblading courier in San Francisco, a job that entails screaming down steep hills at high speeds; dodging automobiles, pedestrians, and streetcars; and delivering, among other things, highly illegal stock information all around town. Enter the Chinese Mafia who, for reasons we won't get into here, consider Griffin a threat; suddenly our hero-on-wheels is in mortal danger from more than just a traffic accident. Targeted by a gang of Chinese killers, Griffin and his girlfriend, Ho, careen through a series of high-speed chases and narrow escapes before finally turning the tables on their tormentors in a bloody, but highly original, finale. What makes *The Ultimate Rush* such a hoot is the way Quirk piles one thriller-genre cliché after another onto his plot, then puts his own quirky twist on them. Hackers, skateboarders, crooked cops, and Chinese assassins keep Chet and Ho hopping and the reader happily going along for the wild ride from first page to last.

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