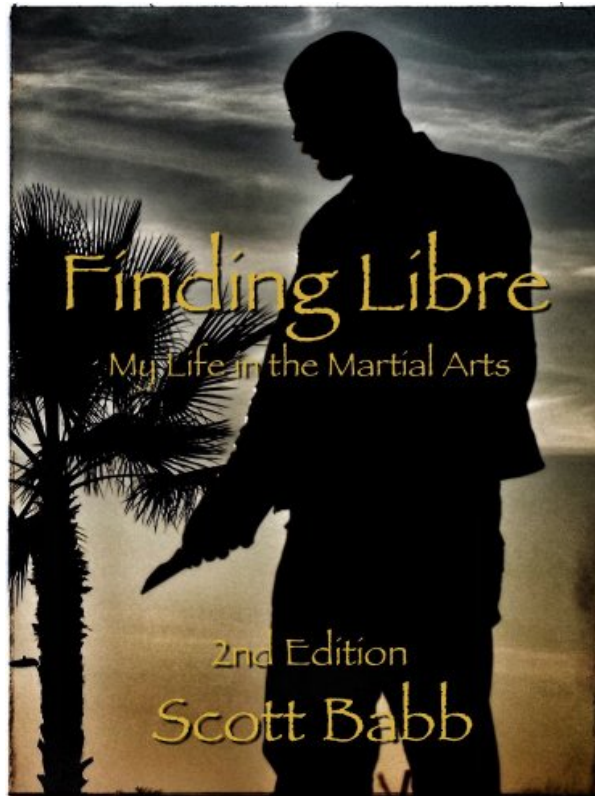
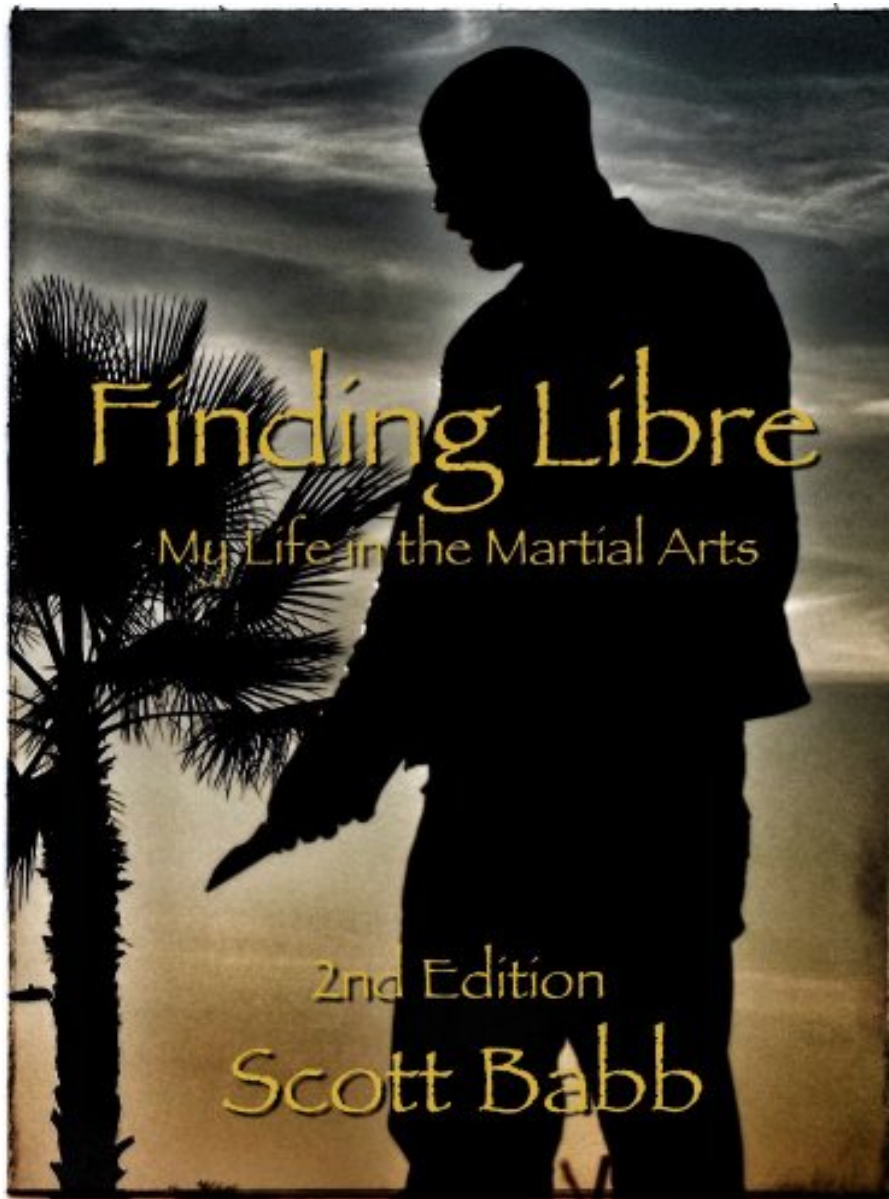


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If you're expecting a story about honor, respect, discipline, commitment and all the other nonsense that Hollywood and the storefront family karate schools tell you is synonymous with martial arts; you're going to be disappointed.

If you're expecting a story that paints the martial arts community as a group of humble, deadly-yet-insightful warriors, who shape lost, wayward youths into confident and productive members of society; you are going to be similarly disappointed.

If you're expecting a chronicle of kicking-ass-and-taking-names; once again, sorry.

That is for the tourists, the rubes, the blissfully ignorant suburban middle-class couple that cheerfully forks over their hard-earned cash to watch some barely-qualified instructor wrap a piece of black electrical tape around their child's belt every three months so they can look forward to how wonderful it will be when their pride and joy has earned the rank of Master before his balls drop. They don't know what really goes on behind the scenes in world of martial arts, and they don't want to know.

If that sounds like you, it's probably best that you stop reading now.

The truth is this is a world filled with liars, child-molesters, petty criminals, egomaniacs and hustlers, all of which will be discussed in-depth. This is a world where the deadliest instructors are usually guys you've never heard of, who often can't hold on to students because, whether it's motivated by deep-seeded psychological issues, drug addiction, arrogance or just plain run-of-the-mill cruelty, they like to dance on the line between 'hard training' and 'physical abuse'.

This is a world where the most respected and influential people are often the shadiest of the bunch. A world where brainwashing children into believing you're a superhuman, unstoppable, magic killing machine is just part of doing business; if you can get their parents to buy into it, so much the better.

This is a world where politics rule, where alliances are forged, backroom deals are made, and friends and mentors are betrayed. This is a world where rank (and therefore respect) is a largely for sale, a commodity to be bought and sold. At the highest levels titles and rank are often awarded through running in the right circles, paying dues to the right people, and kissing the right asses. Of course, if that seems distasteful to you, you can always just award yourself the rank – it happens a lot.

There are some talented, well-meaning, honest, wise, ass-kicking people in this field. Unfortunately, as you will see, they are the exception to the rule.

Though this is, in large part, an exposé on the lesser-known elements of the martial arts world, it is also a very personal story about author's first twenty-nine years of his journey in the martial arts.

It's the story of how the martial arts, despite the harsh realities that will be discussed, allowed him to overcome paralyzing low self-esteem and life-threatening depression through the tools that his training gave him. This is the story of how a depressed, introverted youth endured two-and-a-half decades of lies, corruption, and abuse to learn the skills needed to be a success in life.

Finally it's the story of Libre Fighting, the knife fighting system he created, and the brave new world in which Libre Fighting now thrives. A world free of the lies, abuse, and manipulation he endured coming up through the ranks.

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Introduction to a new martial system

By anonymous fed

I was reading through the Ed's Manifesto FB page. He talked about Libre Fighting, so I decided to check out this book. I didn't know what to expect from the book, but I am glad that I purchased it. As Feds we get the worst training in defensive tactics. I enjoyed reading this book and seeing why and how Scott Babb came up with the techniques and what makes it so different from many martial arts. Much of what we have been taught is only usable if the attacker "attacks us properly." What did I get out of this book? When someone lives a rough life, and they search for the truth in combat, then you get techniques that can help you to survive in bad situations. The book makes me want to train with some old friends, and it makes me want to forget "techniques." It makes me want to go to the old days where you left class with a bruise or a broken nose, because that's when you knew that you were studying something real, and not just a system that plays touchy feely tag. This book is useful to you if you want to understand why some martial arts are more play sports versus something that can help you survive. The sections on philosophy (or how to F' with the other guys mind") are particularly useful. This book will make you think.

My only complaint about the book is that it is too short. I would have loved an instructional manual, but that's not the purpose of the book. Ok, I want an instructional manual, when does that come out? I guess I will have to check out the DVDs. How much did I like the book? I purchased it around 2300 last night and finished it before I went to sleep at 0500. Yes, I read some of it at work, and finished it at home. Its rare for a book on martial arts or training to keep my attention. This author did one hell of a job talking about his system. And, it was amazing that he was so honest about his mother and her problems. You have to read it to understand what I mean. Highly recommended if you want to understand why new martial systems come about. This book may also cause you to question the martial arts that you have studied (which may be painful for some). And for info, I have studied Kajukenbo and Pekiti Tersia, but I now know that I want to learn Libre and maybe someday study with Ed, just sayin, this book will make you question things.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Finding Libre

By Michael1359

An excellent synopsis of the Libre fighting system development through the eyes if it's founder Scott Babb. The good, the bad, and the sometimes ugly that molded the author and Libre into the devastating system that it is. This system puts the good guys on a better than even ground when dealing with criminals, and Scott is to be commended for doing that through perseverance, blood, sweat, and tears. It is an amazing and brutally

honest story that must be read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

**LOVED THIS BOOK!**

By 2boxer2

As a veteran Martial Artist of over 30 years I was blown away by Finding Libre. If I had only 3 words to describe this book it would have to be Honest, insightful and raw. It is a rare thing to find a martial artist of Mr. Babbs caliber who is willing to expose all the dirty little secrets found in so many of our martial arts schools today. Finding Libre is a must read.

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