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# Surfer's Code: 12 Simple Lessons For Riding Through Life



## Synopsis

Powerful lessons for surfing, business, and life from world champion surfer Shaun Tomson. In *Surfer's Code*, world champion surfer Shaun Tomson shares the life lessons he's gathered from decades of surfing—from his boyhood adventures in South Africa to the world tour in the late 1970s to the business world today. For Tomson, surfing is a hobby, a sport, a religion, an obsession, and more—it is a way of life. Tomson's life lessons have guided his career to the top of both professional competition and the world of business. These lessons are born of the collective wisdom of the surf community and are a powerful source of inspiration in the face of extraordinary challenges of everyday life. I will never turn my back on the ocean I will paddle around the impact zone I will take the drop with commitment I will never fight a rip tide I will watch out for other surfers There will always be another wave I will always ride into shore I will honor the sport of kings I will pass along my stroke I will catch a wave every day All surfers are connected by one ocean In a new epilogue, Tomson tells about light as a symbol of hope—through his very personal experiences of a wipeout, the loss of one precious son, and the arrival of another son. Shaun Tomson was 1977 World Champion on the International Professional Surfing Tour. A native of South Africa, he spent fourteen years on the World Tour (1976–1989). He has been featured in more than forty surf videos and starred in the surf movie *In God's Hands*. He was listed as one of the twenty-five most influential surfers of the century (*Surfer*, 1999) and one of the sixteen greatest surfers of all time (*Surfing*, 2004). He is currently Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Surfrider Foundation and owns his own apparel company, Solitude, in Santa Barbara, California. Patrick Moser is the editor of *Pacific Passages: An Anthology of Surf Writing* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2008). He collaborated with Shaun Tomson on *Surfer's Code: 12 Simple Lessons for Riding through Life* and has written articles for *The Surfer's Journal* and *Surfer*. He currently teaches writing and French language at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri where he also offers a course on the history and culture of surfing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was deeply impressed with Shaun Tomson's new book. It is very easy to read and understand, but it is at the same time deeply moving and filled with pregnant philosophical observations about life..... that transcend the sport of surfing, even if the rules arise directly from the ocean and surfing. Of all the surfing books currently on the market trying to give advice or present some kind of inner wisdom, Shaun Tomson's wonderful text is by far the best of the lot. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to ALL READERS, even if you don't surf or even live near the ocean.

I read and reread this book over the past 3 weeks. It is a must for all surfers. We can all learn from it whether we are mellow old school grey haired longboarders, young charging rippers, or the parents of kids just learning to surf. Shaun could teach us all about surfing technique, but instead, he has written about the dangers of focussing on the destructive element that has crept into the surfing culture. He speaks about a more spiritual positive consciousness that we surfers need to develop, and take into our everyday lives. I loved this book. I love the way it was written. It's easy to follow, the photos are great and the gentle sincerity of the author makes it a really special book.

This was one of those books that are impossible to put down until you have reached the unexpected emotional end. I found Shaun's elite level surf descriptions immensely enjoyable. I don't surf, but my beloved husband lives the surfer's code, (both in and out of the water), and now I share an inner understanding. You don't need to be a surfer to enjoy "Surfer's Code". Shaun's 12 lessons don't only apply in the ocean, they can and should be used in all our lives. The world would be a much nicer place! Thanks Shaun. x Cinnamon Stephens

Great book from a legendary surfer. Everyone please help keep our beaches, oceans and other wild places CLEAN, by picking up your trash (and, also, something left behind by someone else) every time you go. Thank you!

Calling All Kooks !!! It's getting crowded in the surf scene... and I found myself encountering more and more arrogant rude kooks in the water who make mistakes (sometimes purposefully) almost injuring me over and over again... and not having the class and education to apologize or act with humility. This would be perfect for those kooks as Shaun Tomson outlines the rules of etiquette in surfing.

Great book and something you might pass on to a grom to share a little words of wisdom to help mold them quicker. I wish someone gave me this book when I was a youth so I could have adapted the words and skipped many years of learning the hard way.

i read this book some time ago. I am a South African living abroad so was out of touch with the surfing world (no such thing in Sweden). My sister advised me to read this book. I found it very interesting especially hearing about Shaun's career and the way he handled the tragic loss of his son. My heart went out to him and his family. His surfing obviously brought him close to nature and this helped him cope with and come to terms with his loss. I have watched many surfers over the years and always envied their obsession with the sport. I have had a few tries myself but it is NOT as easy as it looks!

I really enjoyed reading this book. The author uses his own experiences and stories to illustrate each of the 12 codes that he references. The book was well written and fun to read. He kept me very interested throughout the entire book. I surf, and I found that the author was able to use his words to paint a very clear picture with his own stories and experiences. I would recommend this book even if you're not into surfing. It could be called a "Code of Life".

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