

A woman with blonde hair, Alice Mazorra, is sitting on a concrete ledge in a roller derby rink. She is wearing an orange zip-up hoodie over a grey t-shirt, fishnet stockings, and black roller skates with orange laces. The background shows a rink with various items in baskets, including roller skates and a green helmet. The text is overlaid on the image.

## ROLLER DERBY BOUT

ALICE MAZORRA / 42  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

"I WOULD  
COME HOME  
TIRED AND  
BRUISED,  
BUT ALL  
THE HAPPIER  
FOR HAVING  
TAKEN ON THE  
CHALLENGE."

"Some women find that yoga fits the bill, but I wanted something different. So at 41—with a full-time job, a husband and a young child—I tried out for the Gotham Girls Roller Derby. I needed a way to blow off steam and carve out time for myself. I should have been renovating my apartment and adding to my IRA, not knocking into other girls and worrying about broken bones. But I dusted off my old roller skates anyway

and nervously hit the tryouts for the Manhattan Mayhem. There were over a hundred girls for 15 slots. At the time, I was the oldest, the only mother—and certainly the only woodcut artist.

"We were drilled on speed and how to take a fall. Luckily they weren't looking just for skilled skaters but also for even-tempered, reliable teammates. I made the cut and took the skate name Evil Iris.

"I usually shy away from the spotlight, but the theatricality of Roller Derby gave me the perfect payoff: I got to become my alter ego, don her fishnets and then race around the track. I love that this is a serious sport that doesn't take itself too seriously. That's exactly the kind of woman I want to be, and exactly the kind of woman I'd like to bump into."

—AS TOLD TO SHERI HOLMAN