



The Book of Basketball: The NBA According to The Sports Guy

By Bill Simmons

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The Book of Basketball: The NBA According to The Sports Guy By Bill Simmons

Foreword by Malcolm Gladwell

Newly updated with fresh takes on LeBron, Kobe, the Celtics & more*

Bill Simmons, the wildly opinionated and thoroughly entertaining basketball addict known to millions as ESPN.com's The Sports Guy, has written the definitive book on the past, present, and future of the NBA. From the age-old question of who actually won the rivalry between Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain to the one about which team was truly the best of all time, Simmons opens—and then closes, once and for all—every major pro basketball debate. Then he takes it further by completely reevaluating not only how NBA Hall of Fame inductees should be chosen but how the institution must be reshaped from the ground up, the result being the Pyramid: Simmons's one-of-a-kind five-level shrine to the ninety-six greatest players in the history of pro basketball. And ultimately he takes fans to the heart of it all, as he uses a conversation with one NBA great to uncover that coveted thing: The Secret of Basketball.

Comprehensive, authoritative, controversial, hilarious, and impossible to put down (even for Celtic-haters), *The Book of Basketball* offers every hardwood fan a courtside seat beside the game's finest, funniest, and fiercest chronicler.

*Including even more footnotes!

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best of the Month, October 2009: *The Book of Basketball* is a 700-page work of hoops genius that would make Dr. James Naismith beam proudly – and probably blush. Author Bill Simmons, best known as ESPN.com's "The Sports Guy," explores the NBA with hilarious insight, brilliant analysis, and a bevy of irreverent footnotes. Simmons is a fan first – a fact best explained in an entertaining foreword by Malcolm Gladwell – and writes from the stands, not the press room. His knowledge and passion for the game provide him with few peers, yet his voice represents those who stick by their teams through thick and thin. As a result, *The Book of Basketball* is not just a tribute to hardwood heroes, but also a celebration of yelling at TV sets, revering lucky jerseys, and holding our breath until the final buzzer sounds. Throw in pages of nearly-insane statistical breakdowns (including a projected boxscore from the movie *Teen Wolf*), and it's easy to see why fans of all levels should clear shelf space for this instant classic. --*Dave Callanan*

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Simmons, aka "the Sports Guy," is a regular columnist on ESPN.com. He writes about all sports, with a particular affection for his hometown Boston teams. Stylistically, there's no one quite like him writing about sports. Sardonic, both irreverent and reverent, silly, self-deprecating, and melancholy are all adjectives that can be used to describe his work. The NBA seems to bring out his best stuff, perhaps because of its unique mix of personalities and cultures and the mysteries of its team dynamics. This monster of a book (more than 700 pages) is equal parts history and analysis. Simmons summarizes the history of the league, discusses his personal fandom, includes a great "what if?" chapter (what if Michael Jordan had been drafted second by Portland instead of third by Chicago?), analyzes Most Valuable Player choices through the years, and dissects the careers of the league's all-time best players. The true NBA fan will dive into this hefty volume and won't resurface for about a week, emerging from the man cave unshaven, smelling of beer and pizza, grinning, and armed with NBA history, insight, anecdotes, statistics, and a dozen new examples of Simmons' Unintentional Comedy Scale. This is just plain fun. Expect significant demand from hoops junkies. --Wes Lukowsky

Review

"[A] slam dunk."—*USA Today*

"The work of a true fan . . . It might just represent the next phase of sports commentary."—*The Atlantic*

"May be one of those literary lollapaloozas that Simmons's fans must buy."—*The New York Times*

"Wildly prolific, ceaselessly witty, harmlessly crass, and generally wise, Simmons has built an everydude empire by triangulating the trashy pop-culture futon talk of Chuck Klosterman and the stats-heavy philosophizing of Malcolm Gladwell."—*The Village Voice*

"This is just plain fun. . . . The true NBA fan will dive into this hefty volume and won't resurface for about a week."—*Booklist* (starred review)

"The book flows much like Mr. Simmons's ESPN columns. . . . Opinion gushes out of him. But he backs it up with equal parts serious research and off-angle observations. . . . He has produced enough provocative arguments to fuel barstool arguments far into the future."—*The Wall Street Journal*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

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The ability that you get from The Book of Basketball: The NBA According to The Sports Guy may be the more deep you excavating the information that hide within the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but The Book of Basketball: The NBA According to The Sports Guy giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by simply anyone who read this because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this particular The Book of Basketball: The NBA According to The Sports Guy instantly.

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Frank Godwin:

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