



Drive: The Story of My Life

Larry Bird , Bob Ryan , Earvin Johnson (Foreword)

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"Of all the people I play against, the only one I truly fear is Larry Bird."--Magic Johnson, from the Foreword. The heart and soul of a champion: his life, his career, his game. To understand basketball, you have to understand Larry Bird. Arguably the greatest all-around player the game has ever known, he led the Boston Celtics from the basement to three world championships, collecting three NBA Most Valuable Player awards along the way. Yet, despite these massive accomplishments, Bird has rarely talked to the press, and much about the man has remained a mystery. Now in "Drive," the long-silent superstar sets the record straight, revealed a side of himself-and of basketball-you've never see before. Inside, you'll learn Bird's most private feelings about: The momentous decision to transfer from Bobby Knight's Indiana University to Indiana State. The heartbreak of his father's suicide and his own failed marriage. The single-minded discipline that tured a small-town hero into a national superstar. The Boston Garden and the legendary Celtic charm. The Isiah Thomas controversy and the fierce Celtic-Laker rivalry. The great players of the NBA: including Magic Johnson, Dominique Wilkins, and Michael Jordan, and much more. here is the book that puts a basketball legend-and his game-on the line. And scores!

Drive: The Story of My Life Details

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Jack says

Brought me back to some really exciting times in the 80's. Great, revealing account of Bird's development and heroics. If you're a basketball fan and haven't read this, treat yourself!!

Todd says

Great book if you enjoyed the NBA in the 1980's!

Grant Martignetti says

Drive

Larry Bird is one of the greatest players to ever step onto the basketball court in the NBA. Despite his great basketball ability Larry never often spoke to the press about his life and much of it was left a mystery to his fans. This book is a great book to really get into the Life of Larry Bird and learn that there was more there than just a great player. Many didn't know that he grew up in French Lick, Indiana with his family and faced many problems financially. Although he wasn't rolling in money he still found time to play basketball every day, even when he broke his ankle he found a way to get shots up every day. Larry never was shown the easy way to success he did it the hard way. He was faced with the death of his father at such a young age when he committed suicide. Larry didn't let this stop him though, he felt that it is just what his father had to do for the family and Larry stepped up and it drove him to become a better player to reach his goal that his dad also had for him. Larry went on to be a star for his high school basketball team and later joined the Indiana State basketball team where he led them to a championship title and finished his college career averaging over 30 points a game which is still in the top five today. He was drafted 6th overall by the Boston Celtics in 1979 where he helped turn the organization around and won the rookie of the year in his first year and also lead them to 3 NBA titles and win 3 MVP awards along the way.

This was one of the best books I have ever read because it wasn't just throwing out stats about players of just telling me what he did in his career, but it really gave you the background to the player and how he got to where he was. Many time people just think stars are giving the red line to their fame but really there not, he faced adversity and fought through it, he went through many things that some people never have to face in their life but never gave up. Larry Bird is a true idol, and will always be one of the greatest players to play the game, along with his rival who is often talked about in the book Magic Johnson. I recommend this book to anyone who has a passion for sports and to really read into the life of one of the greatest players to ever play the game.

Micah Young says

If you enjoy reading autobiographies, then the book Drive: The Story of My Life by Larry Bird is a great option for you. I really enjoyed this book because basketball is easily my favorite sport, and I love filling my

brain with more information about the game. Larry Bird is one of the most famous basketball players of all time. Learning from Larry Bird's opinion on basketball and his personal life is really interesting to me. I liked that Larry Bird gave an in-depth look at his early life. Usually, when you think of Larry Bird, you think of him playing for the Boston Celtics or even when he played in college for Indiana State. I never knew Larry Bird grew up in a poor family in the small town of French Lick, Indiana. Also, I never knew how much he struggled to choose a college to play in, since he doesn't like big cities and fame. I don't want to spoil the rest, but I really liked how the book gave a detailed look on his early life that a lot of people probably don't know about. Overall, this book was very good. I don't like reading books, however this book encourages me to read more. Larry Bird is one of my favorite athletes of all time, and I loved reading more about him.

Jose says

This was one of the best books I've read in a while and as soon as I started reading it I couldn't put it down. Larry Bird is one of the best NBA basketball players of all-time. Not only is he one of the best, but he is one of my favorite basketball players too. I really enjoyed reading this book because it's about basketball, which is my favorite sport.

"Look, son, if this is what you want to do, then that is what you should do. Don't look back. Just look ahead." (Chapter 9, pg 43).

This book is about Larry's life from high school all the way to the pros where he played in the NBA for the Boston Celtics. There are certain decisions in life that you will have to make that are key turning points to adulthood. Larry didn't have the best childhood, with his dad committing suicide and his family not having much money. He had to work to make more money for his family at a young age. I would say the biggest turning point for me was his decision to leave Indiana University. He decided to leave because it was the best thing for him even though everybody was telling him what a bad decision he was making. That shows a sense of adulthood because he was making decisions for himself and what was best for him. He ends up transferring to Indiana State, where he has a stellar college career.

I recommend this book to people who love sports especially basketball. Also to people who just want to read about a kid that went from having nothing to being inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame. It's a great read and I feel most people will enjoy it!

Patrick McTague says

Drive, by Larry Bird, can be a very inspirational book to young athletes out there. It shows no matter how late you start playing a sport, you can always end up in the big leagues. This book tells us about Larry's life and the struggles he faced leading up to his NBA career. In case someone didn't know, Larry Bird is one of the greatest players to have ever played in the NBA and played for the Boston Celtics his whole successful career.

This biography talks about how Larry Bird grew up in a small town in Indiana called French Lick. He practically lived in poverty because his family was very poor and it was a family of six. He lived with his

mom who took care of all five kids. His dad lived by himself and worked a lot but earning very little to help support the family. He then ended up committing suicide because he thought it was best for him and the family if he did that, since he wasn't helping them financially anymore. As a result, his mother is forced to work two jobs. Larry began playing basketball his sophomore year and that is when his passion for the game began to grow. His high school coach helped improve his skills his junior and senior year. After high school he played basketball for Indiana State University. His senior year there, the team made in to the NCAA championship to face Michigan State, including Magic Johnson, but ended up losing. He then made it to the NBA, where he was drafted to the Boston Celtics and won many outstanding achievements with the team.

This book is very appealing to athletes, like me, so I really enjoyed reading this book. Larry Bird is a huge inspiration to athletes everywhere and for him to write this book makes us appreciate him that much more. He is an inspiring figure in the game of basketball and for him to share the struggles and challenges he went through to get to the NBA, makes him that much more appreciable. His story and his journey to the NBA is so interesting and motivates me to do better in everything. He really goes in-depth and personal with his story, which grabs the reader's attention.

What I don't like about this book is that he doesn't talk much about his high school career. I would like to know more about his games in high school and what game days were like in school so I can compare myself to him and how he prepares for a game. It would be very interesting to learn some tips about the game of basketball and valuable information about the game.

I highly recommend this book to athletes everywhere and for people who think they have it hard on themselves. Larry had to grow up with his parents divorced with his dad eventually killing himself, practically living in poverty, and moving many times. Also I recommend this book because it shows how no matter when you start, you can accomplish anything. Bird didn't start playing high school basketball until he was a sophomore and ended up playing division one basketball and going to play in the NBA. He only had three years of practice before he became the player he was then. Overall, I would recommend this to people who like sports and people who want to learn more about Larry Bird personally.

Lukas Wurster says

Love this book! He really explains his life in detail and makes it interesting.

Eirik says

Larry Bird is a great guy, and this book supports that. But haven't there happened any other negative things in his life than his father's suicide? The book is actually TOO bright, and also not that good written. It doesn't create a very good flow of reading.

Steve Green says

Lots of great stories by one of the legends of basketball!

Not the best written book I've ever read. Lots of grammatical and punctuation errors but otherwise reads well.

John says

A fun, quick read. Narrative-wise and structurally this book is kind of a mess. Bird just takes the reader through his career up until the point of writing (1989). I personally found 'When the Game Was Ours', his book with Magic Johnson, more insightful. There were three interesting points that he raised, though. The first was his disregard of triple-doubles and how they don't indicate how good a player is (c.f. Russell Westbrook). The second point was that the value of the corner three is much higher than other shots (this was 20+ years before analytics would prove this). The third was that the NBA schedule creates situations where teams will not be able to play at their peak, which is a relevant current issue.

Roger Byykkonen says

I was never a fan of Larry Bird when I was growing up. I was given this book by my father one year and could not get myself to read more than a few chapters. I finally finished it for my literature class. I felt the reading seemed a little tedious at times. I do have a new appreciation for Larry and what it takes to be a big sports figure in our culture. If you like learning about sports and specifically Larry or the Celtics, then you would enjoy reading this book.

John Yelverton says

A good story about a great basketball player, but he really bounces over parts of his life story that he doesn't like. It really wasn't a complete autobiography in my opinion.

Thiago S. says

Great book... simple and direct as the world was in 90's. Bird is a nice character, loves his sport and is a much more decent guy than today's sports celebrities. And also he had some vision to find out that Michael Jordan would rule the basketball world. He's very polite with his colleagues and respects hierarchy and the fans. Really deserved the legend status.

Ashleigh says

Read it in high school. Enjoyed the book.

Dave Moyer says

I loved Larry Bird. My fandom may cloud my objectivity.
