



Driven: From Homeless to Hero, My Journeys On and Off Lambeau Field

Donald Driver

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The legendary NFL receiver, all-time receptions and yards leader for the Green Bay Packers, and Dancing with the Stars champion looks back on his life and career.

Now, in his memoir, Driver recalls what it was like to go from living in a U-Haul trailer with his mom on the streets of Houston to earning a spot on the Packers roster and becoming one of Brett Favre's favorite targets on the way to football stardom. He takes you inside the locker room with legends such as Favre and Reggie White, and recalls his more recent roles as a veteran leader for stars like Aaron Rodgers and Greg Jennings during the 2010 Super Bowl season and as a Dancing with the Stars winner.

A seventh-round draft pick in 1999, Donald Driver was given little chance of making the Packers roster, much less of becoming a 1,000-yard receiver, a beloved icon for one of the NFL's most storied franchises, and a Super Bowl champion. But in a life of adversity, Driver has overcome obstacle after obstacle and has become one of the most popular players in the NFL.

Driven: From Homeless to Hero, My Journeys On and Off Lambeau Field Details

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Author : Donald Driver

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From Reader Review Driven: From Homeless to Hero, My Journeys On and Off Lambeau Field for online ebook

Lori says

I was a goodreads first reads winner of this book. I like memoirs and all sorts of categories that could go with memoir. This one is written by Football player, Donald Driver. This is a "rags to riches" autobiography.

Donald Driver { who never went by the name Donald growing up} was nicknamed Quickie" because he was born to run and run FAST!

"Quickie" had a lot of hardship in his childhood. His parents were young had three kids in three years. faced poverty, he watched his parents fight quite a bit when they finally broke up when Donald was still very young. His mother married and divorced two more times had more children. His father was in and out of jail for crimes he did and did NOT commit. For a lot of Donald's life his father was not in it. there were times he was even homeless. they moved constantly.

By the time Donald was 12 he was selling drugs to help support his family. One thing he was good at was sports he was on the football team in high school in Texas. and his talent on the field got him a scholarship to a college. through college he did well on his team, met his future wife. and after college got drafted to the Green Bay Packers. Donald spent a generous amount of the book talking about his year playing for Packers, playing with Brett Favre, and Reggie White, how wonderful it was winning the Super bowl.

one chapter was even devoted to his competing on Dancing with the stars and winning!

I enjoyed reading Donald Driver's memoir. As I mentioned I especially like reading the "rags to riches' stories and watching how people can succeed. A good read. If you like reading about football. this is interesting.

Collin Jorgensen says

Personal Response: I read the book "Driven by Donald Driver. This was a very excellent book and I liked it a lot. I enjoyed how he talked about all his on and off court activities from when he was a kid, to a grown adult.

Plot: This book talked about Donald's life. So the first thing that happened, was that Donald was a kid, growing up in the ghetto. His brother was a drug dealer, so he had Donald in his deals. One time, his brother gave Donald the drugs, and had him stand and wait for the person receiving them. Another time, he had to drive away and steal cars and then resell them. During high school, he was very good at track, the high jump to be more specific. He got invited to try out for the U.S. team for the Olympics but didn't make it. Then he tried football out and loved it. He played all of High School then eventually got a scholarship for football at Alcorn State. There he had to make a decision, either go through college and play football, or keep trying out for the Olympics. He decided that football was the way to go. He played all College and was a talented player. Scouts came and watched his name, and when he got interviewed, they said "We'll take you first chance we get!" Well when the draft came around, they didn't take him... no one did. Until the Packers did with the 213th pick of the NFL Draft. Donald wasn't pleased, but dealt with it. When he came to training camp, he was the 8th receiver on the roster. He proved himself the Brett Favre, and the coaches and got bumped up to the 6th receiver. He didn't get much playing time in his first year as a rookie, but his 2nd year was special. One of the starting receivers was out and another got injured during the game. So Donald came in and caught passes and scored a touchdown. He played 14 years in the league and broke all records for Packers receivers. During his 13th season, he participated in Dancing with the Stars, and won. His last

year, he announced his retirement along with all the Packers fans surrounding him.

Characterization: Donald Driver was born in Houston Texas. His dad left his family when he was nine. He also had a rough time with his brother because he sold drugs for him. He and his brother also stole cars and sold them to people. He tried out for the Olympics for the high jump in high school but didn't make it so he chose football instead. He went to Alcorn State in college and got drafted in 1999 by the Green Bay Packers. As a rookie he didn't get much playing time but it slowly increased over time. He went on to break every Packers receiving record in history. He also won dancing with the stars in 2013. He will always be respected by the Packers organization and the fans.

Recommendation: I recommend this book to any Packer fan ages 8+. It could be challenging that's why I recommend it for that age. Overall it is a well-written book and I enjoyed reading it very much.

Max says

This book was probably the best book I have ever read. I loved everything about this book. Double D wrote this book perfectly. His story about his life is unbelievable. I love reading books that their selves wrote about their lives. It is so interesting to learn about what they went through when they were young. And Donald Driver had one of the most interesting stories ever. He also talks about his career in sports. It is also amazing how he played 3 sports and made it the the NFL and also could have wen't to the Olympics. If you want to know about Donald Drivers life and have a good read I highly recommend this book!

Callie Rose Tyler says

Warning: this review is written by a devoted Cheesehead, as a result a bias opinion will follow
This book had me crying and laughing and falling even deeper in love with Donald Driver.

It was fantastic to remember the highlights and learn more about this inspirational hero.

First off, this book is written by a football player, it is intelligently written but lacks the organization and finesse of a professional writer. For me this was not really a drawback as the voice was authentic and made me feel closer to Donald as a result, *see we're on a first name basis*.

I really knew nothing of his hard childhood and dark past, I have only known him as an amazingly player with a winning personality and big heart. Seeing where Driver came from and where he ended up pushed this book towards the inspirational label however, for me the draw was getting a glimpse behind the scenes of this amazing football franchise. I loved seeing many emotional Packer moments from Donald's point of view such as Favre's retirement, winning the Superbowl, and not making it through the playoffs the following year.

I think that Donald wrote with truth and honesty and didn't try to present himself as anything other than what he is. Reliving both the tough times and amazing moments of the Green Bay packers brought a tear to this

fan's eye.

Overall, a must read for any member of the Packer Nation.

Tanner Schude says

Can a kid living in a bad neighborhood selling drugs and stealing living with a family that has no money and is constantly moving make it to the NFL? Driven a fantastic autobiography by Donald Driver showing the hardships of his early life to becoming a famous NFL receiver. Donald in his young years goes through a lot. When he was 2 his mom left his father because his father was in and out of prison for drug charges and robbery charges. This book shows the incredible life of how this NFL star in his early years went from homeless to NFL star.

Donald lived in a Houston apartment in a bad side of town. His mom was always at work when Donald came home from school. He lived with his mom and his brother. Donald had heard stories of his father about his high school days. His father was the fastest and best quarterback. Being in the bad neighborhood that Donald is in he takes to crime to earn money. Donald sold drugs and stole cars. He loves sports he played in basketball, football, and competed in track. Can one instance of someone seeing him commit a crime really change his life? Can such an athletic kid with a not so bright future really have a nice life? This kid turns a very nice humble man and to this day says he owes everything to his momma and the Green Bay Packers organization. This book is pretty good I would recommend you read this book.

Josh Long says

Driven is an appropriate title for Donald Driver's book. Throughout the chapters it was easy to see how "Driven" Donald was- He was driven to succeed whether he was selling drugs, trying to bring his family together, play college football, Packer football, or Dancing with the Stars.

Donald Driver's weak and often dysfunctional home made him do almost anything to get money to survive. The beginning chapters told about his car stealing, drug dealing, and struggles to survive. His many siblings were very important to him and he tried hard to help them. The author describes poverty and sleeping under a bridge with his Mother and many boy friends. He excelled in track and high school football.

In college he sold drugs, lived with a girlfriend, Alandra, and played football for Alcorn State. He soon left Alandra and starting dating his now wife, Tina. She had a good influence on Donald and he quit selling drugs or he would have lost her.

When draft day came he was very sad to not be drafted higher and hated to go to cold Green Bay. He had no idea where Green Bay was on a map. He struggled as a rookie and played very little. Donald's first number was 13, but when 80 was available he was happy because it was Jerry Rice's number. Donald became friends with Ron Wolf who helped him succeed.

Donald Driver's first NFL coach was Ray Rhodes. Donald's other coaches were Mike Sherman, Mike Holmgren and Mike McCarthy. In the book, Donald shared many locker room pranks and stories about the team. Driven tells of Donald's successes on the field before 2002 when he was offered a big contract with the Kansas City Chiefs. Donald and Tina decided to buy a home in Green Bay and stay. For the next eight years he was a very successful wide receiver and work well with Brett Favre.

Donald will be remembered for all the charity work he and Tina did in the Fox Cities and Green Bay areas. Donald never forgot his family or other poor people. Donald shared his money with his family.

Donald Driver always said that he had two families-- a football family and his biological family. He was very happy playing for the Packers and before 2010 he suffered very few injuries. Then to fight the pain he had many injections to deaden the pain and kept playing all that he could.

Driven shows Donald's compassion when he flies to Virginia to be with a dying friend. The book tells of all the games,--season and post-- to get to the Super Bowl. Donald was happy to play in his home state of Texas in the Super Bowl. He was badly injured and thanked his team for saving the game. Donald had tore his (MCL) and his (LCL) in his left knee. He also had hip surgery. He recovered, but only played a minor roles for the Packers after that.

Donald was invited to dance on "Dancing with the Stars." Donald, Tina, and his three children, Cristian, Christina, and Charity spent most of the winter that year in Hollywood dancing on TV once a week. Donald's dancing partner was Peta and they won the Mirror bowl that year. Thanks to Donald's old teammates and Packer fans voting, they far beat everyone else's total votes.

After taking a big pay cut in his 14th year he made two touchdowns, caught eight passes, for 77 yards.

Donald said, "Thank you and Goodbye" to all of his fans at Lambeau Field on Feb 6, 2013.

I would recommend this book to any Packer fan, teenage sports fan or anyone who likes to read any "rags to riches" stories.

Kristen Wampner says

Book Cover: I think that Biographies and Autobiographies should have a picture of the person on the front and this one was perfect. *STAR*

Author: I thought Donald Driver did a wonderful job telling sharing his story with the world. *STAR*

Story: This is a heartwrenching story of a boy who grew up in a rough neighborhood but quickly makes some life changing decisions later on in life. *STAR*

Characters/Relationships: I really enjoyed learning about Donald Driver since I really didn't know anything about him. I really didn't like chapter 13 what the show Dancing With The Stars turned him into was what I thought more than overconfident to almost the point of being cocky. NO STAR

Cleanliness: There was nothing bad in this book.

Overall Review: Overall I really enjoyed this book. I'm wasn't a fan of the Dancing With The Stars chapter mainly because I'm not a fan of that show seeing that push you to add unnecessary drama to make reality tv

more interesting. Other than that I loved the book and reading and learning about Donald Driver and his accomplishments, dreams, and goals as an individual. A must read for any Green Bay Packer fan or anybody who just loves to read football biography books.

Kati says

Won this book as a First-Reads ARC. I didn't know what to expect with this book. To be honest, I really didn't know if I'd enjoy it at all, given that I'm not a football fan, though following the Packers team a bit through my husband is the closest I've ever come to following football at all. In fact, I requested this book primarily so my husband, who's a born & bred Packers fan, could read it.

Ultimately, it's a great, and quick, read. Donald (Quickie) Driver comes across as a likable man who'd do just about anything for his family, and holds his head high every day knowing that while he's compromised the law on a few occasions, he's never compromised his love for his family, or for the sport. I'm guessing the one Packers game that I've been to, I probably saw Driver play, and I'm sorry now that I didn't realize at that point who he was/is.

I'm passing this autobiography on to my daughter, then to my hubby, and possibly after that to my Father-in-law to read. I hope they all enjoy it as much as I ultimately did.

To Donald Driver (though he'll probably never see this), CONGRATULATIONS and BEST OF LUCK in all your future endeavors, Sir. You've earned it!

Christi Johnson says

I won this book on a first reads giveaway. I am not a Packers fan whatsoever, but this book was absolutely amazing! Driven is a great look into the life of a fabulous athlete, from the worst times to the best of times. It is great to see how he came from nothing, selling drugs as a kid to help his mom pay the bills to a Super Bowl and Mirror Ball champion! I love to see anyone who had a troubled childhood put their mind to something greater and achieve their goals. This is what this book portrays of Donald Driver. In my eyes he is a great role model for especially troubled children. Any sports fan will love this book. Way to go Donald, truly and amazing man!

Michael Linton says

I read this book as a lifelong Packer fan. Because of that, I was really looking forward to reading it. Unfortunately, I was sorely disappointed. I already knew the basic history of Driver but I was hoping to read the details of his time in Green Bay and of his past life. Well, I got that in his pre-Packer life but got very little of that once he joined the Packers. In addition, I felt the book was a self-promotion book which put a bad taste in my mouth. I wish he put as much passion into this book as he put into football because this book was very empty. I was hoping to read some great stories at this time and in Green Bay but it was mostly a timeline of what happened rather than the details behind the storyline. If I wasn't a Packer fan, maybe I wouldn't be so critical.

Naomi says

Read my full review: <http://bit.ly/17O2BRK>

3.5/5 Stars

My opinion: OK, I have to preface this review by saying that I am a Chicago Bears fan until the day they bag and tag me. Anyone who knows ANYTHING about football knows that the rivalry between the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packer FANS (I think the players have difficulties remembering it) is nothing to be played with. On that note, there are PLAYERS on the Packers that I have a lot of respect for. Donald Driver is one of those players.

While Driver depicts his life adversities, I would have liked to seen him go deeper into them. There will be a large number of children/youth who read this book and, as depicted in the title, in my humble opinion, Mr. Driver has a lot that he can teach our youth, especially since he calls himself a "hero" in the title. This book was a very, very short 156 pages and he crammed a whole lot of time into those pages. I think he could have either written less on football to accomplish what I expressed earlier OR made the book longer. I would also like to have seen more written regarding his foundation, as it has done a number of good things.

There was also some feeling that the writing was discombulated and that the writing jumped around a bit more than what would have been expected. I am not sure if he used a ghostwriter or not, but it might have benefited for him to.

P.e. lolo says

Really liked this book. The story about DONALD DRIVER and his life from being homeless. To college and then a 7th round pick by Green bay. I don't think you need to be a football fan or a Green Bay Packers, fan to enjoy this book. For me it was great being a Packer fan to be able to read this book and by sharing this review maybe somebody will see that you can make it out. He is honest about what he did when he was homeless and living in the ghetto. But he gives credit to the people who were there for him to guide towards sports and not crime. He also talks about hard work to stay in shape and to make the football team. I think it was funny that he did not even know where Green Bay, was. But at the end of his career he became the all time leader in receptions, yards and in the top 5 of touch downs and top 3 of games played for Green Bay. To most people that might not be much but the team has been around since 1921. That was a lot of players to pass. The book was well written and anyone would enjoy his story.

Mitchell Berg says

Whether you're a Packers fan or not, this man's story is for all. Truly one of the greatest stories I have ever heard. "Driven" is an understatement. I loved every word of this book. Thank you, Mr. Driver, for sharing your incredible story. You truly are an influence to so many. Keep doing you. Go Pack Go!!

Michael Hegewald says

The book Driven, by Donald Driver, is an autobiography of Donald Driver's life. The book explains Donald's struggles and accomplishments from growing up on the streets to becoming a legend of the Green Bay Packers football team. I would recommend this book to all people above the age of 15. I would especially recommend this book to teenagers who are very busy because this book shows that hard work always pays off in the end. Although this book is heavily based on football, you do not need to be a football fan to enjoy reading about Donald Driver's life. There are countless lessons that can be learned from Donald Drivers life. I gave this book a 5 star rating because it was enjoyable to read, and it shows that we can balance academics, religion, family life, and sports.

Matt G says

I personally loved the book and it is one of my favorite books I have ever read. I would recommend this book to anyone that loves the game of football, likes biography books, or anyone that is struggling right now with life and you don't know what to do. I recommend this book to those certain people because that is what the book represents and what it talks about. When I heard of the book I wanted to read it, not just because I like Donald Driver, it's also because I wanted a book to read and see what it was like. It turned out to be a great book. From this book I have learned about the NFL more but also Donald as a person and the things that he experienced as a child to an adult and what he had to suffer through and the decisions that he had to make. This is a very inspirational book and it always has you on your toes and make you want to know what will happen next. I loved this book and would be happy to read this book again.
