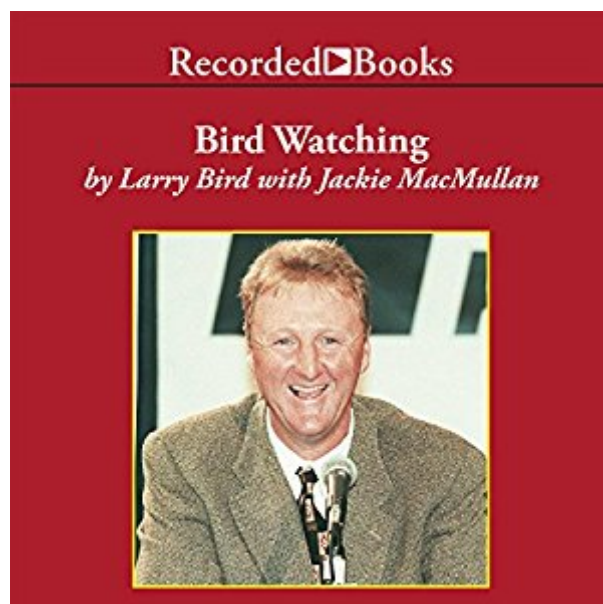


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Bird Watching: On Playing And Coaching The Game I Love



Synopsis

Even if you thought you knew everything about basketball legend Larry Bird, this audiobook is full of surprises. Bird speaks with amazing candor, offering a personal and honest look at his career with the Celtics, his experience with the '92 Olympics Dream Team, and his transition from superstar player to respected coach. Bird offers striking revelations about his health problems and how they shaped the man and his game. He shows how the things he learned as a player formed his thinking as a coach. He also shares his insight into the Pacers' disastrous 1999 playoff loss. Fans will be thrilled with the game talk, intimate anecdotes, and reminiscences with which Bird colors his stirring story. Overall, this is a compelling self-portrait of an uncomplicated man of humble beginnings who has achieved a great deal through hard work and integrity. Narrator Tom Stechschulte lends a strong, rich voice to Bird's revealing memoir. His perfectly paced delivery enhances the sense of play-by-play action and the feeling that the Bird Man himself is telling you his personal story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read what I thought all there was to know about the greatest basketball player of all-time. But through this book, I have learned more about the legendary Bird. The book takes you through the later years of Bird's injured-plagued career and through his first years coaching the Pacers. He walks us through his struggles and joys of coaching a team he plans will make the NBA Finals. The book shows me what I truly love about Larry Bird. A book not to be missed.

This book is virtually required reading for any fan of the Celtics, Pacers, or Larry Bird. If you ever

wondered what Bird's thoughts were regarding his late-career injuries, his role with the Dream Team, his days in the Celtic front office, or his becoming a first-time NBA head coach, you're in luck. Larry Legend lays it all out in straightforward, no-bull fashion. While the book could hardly be labeled a "tell-all expose," it does contain a number of surprising revelations: his previously unknown heart condition, the machinations in the Celtic organization which wound up with the hiring of Rick Pitino, what Bird thought of certain former teammates and opponents, and so on. The book is a relatively quick read, even at approx. 320 pages, but I found it highly entertaining. I confess to being a big Bird fan before I ever read this book, but even if you're not, I suspect you'll come away duly impressed by the man's humility, honesty, and intelligence. As for the book's co-writer, Jackie MacMullan, it's impossible to know how much of the wording, tone, and style is hers vs. Larry's, but my impression is that she was true to her subject. In addition, I suspect her considerable writing skills were instrumental in creating such a smooth, concise work. Who'd have guessed that Larry Bird, painfully shy and inarticulate as a young man, would ever produce a candid and interesting book like this? The Hick from French Lick surprises us all again!

First of all I used to love Larry Bird. Then I read the book called, "When The Game Was Ours" about him and Magic Johnson and I loved that book so much. Now I read this one that Larry wrote and I guess he thinks it's wonderful to be a jerk and act like a large A-hole all his life and spend his entire career telling everyone how much he hates the lime-light. He makes millions of bucks and then takes 5 pairs of free jeans home from a commercial like the old fogies on Miami Beach while others could have used them far more than this selfish prima-donna. He won't give in on anything he thinks or likes and the words negotiate never occur to him I guess just like the words, "Hey good job or nice effort" never seem to cross his lips either. He spends his life telling everyone how things are going to be. He's a total cold fish and all about me in life and basically has no feelings for anyone, or if he does he's the kind that NEVER is strong enough to say it to them so what good is it. He talks about his mom passing as if he's ordering a cheeseburger at Denny's with no emotion at all as usual so....I'm done with this guy. I would never want to be like Mr. Bird no matter how much money I could make. If you like good books, get the one about him and Johnson but not this one. This one leaves me cold this time with a guy who's whole life is how everything he feels is right on the money, but what others feel is totally wrong and out of bounds. The world is full of guys like this and it's what makes us all crazy to get away from them. And yeah as I said...He used to be one of my favorite athletes until I get a sample of knowing him.

As a huge Larry Bird fan prior to listening to the first half of this audiobook (until I couldn't take anymore), this was very disappointing. If you're interested in hearing Bird humblebrag about how tough he is by spending hours hearing him describe his back problems in excruciating detail, then Bird Watching is for you. If I had a do-over, I would save my time and money. Bird comes across as an arrogant, self absorbed and boring storyteller.

Bird Watching, an autobiography by Larry Bird, is a story for any lover of sports. Bird Watching is a detailed account of the life of Larry Bird, from his NBA career with the Boston Celtics to his coaching position with the Indiana Pacers. After reading the first page of the book, the reader realizes there is more to this NBA legend than meets the eye. Unlike most professional basketball players, Larry Bird never regretted the day he left the NBA and even says that the day he retired was "one of the happiest days of [his] life." Faced with chronic back problems and an irregular heart, Bird was happy to see the day when he no longer had to endure the pain of playing the sport he loved more than anything. Coming from the man himself, the story describes Bird's life in a detailed and personal manner. From beginning to end, the reader easily notices the uniqueness of this man's character and not only sees, but feels the impact this incredible man left on so many fellow players, fans, and loved ones. I thought this was a great book, especially for a sports fan. I felt that for a sport's book, it was particularly well written. The author's style allows the reader to get a personal glimpse of the life of Larry Bird and causes the reader to feel as if they knew this NBA legend. Because of the story's subject, the author employs very few literary devices. However, the author uses many similes in describing Bird's injuries, allowing the reader to appreciate Bird's choice in leaving the NBA. The book lacks an overall dominant theme, but simply wishes to convey the story of one of the greatest and most unique basketball players of all time.

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