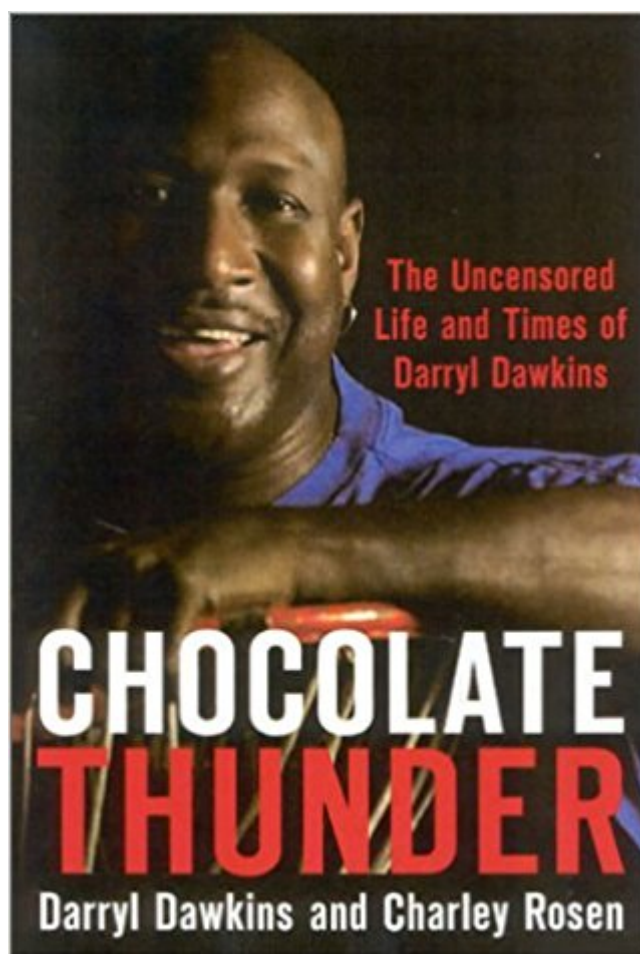


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Chocolate Thunder: The Uncensored Life And Time Of Darryl Dawkins



Synopsis

Darryl Dawkins revives his swashbuckling persona in this tell-all account of sex, drugs and racism in pro basketball during the 1970s and '80s, the NBA's outlaw league era.

Book Information

Hardcover: 238 pages

Publisher: Sport Media Publishing (March 25, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0973144327

ISBN-13: 978-0973144321

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,951,371 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball > Professional](#) #790 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball](#)

Customer Reviews

In this shocking, and shockingly entertaining, memoir of a life in basketball, Dawkins, a former NBA star with the Philadelphia 76ers and New Jersey Nets in the 1970s and '80s, takes readers from his earliest days in a poor Florida backwater through his first games as an 18-year-old NBA whippersnapper to later years of hard playing and harder partying. Dawkins has many professional claims to fame—he is generally credited with elevating the dunk to an art form and being the first to jump from high school to the NBA. But the best reason to read this book has nothing to do with who Dawkins is and everything to do with what he says. In an age when even athlete bad boys tend to be bland cliché-machines, Dawkins is a throwback, a tell-it-like-it-is chatterbox who follows the one-jaw-dropping-anecdote-deserves-another school of thinking, whether he's comparing the merits of pot and cocaine, recounting his childhood pastime of shooting at roosters, giving his estranged wife a broken nose (it was self-defense, he says) or describing the things that affect his play. (He writes, "Me and Kelly were fucking so much that I could hardly shoot the ball, but I was rebounding like I was on welfare and the ball was made of gold.") He gets away with most of it because of a lighthearted tone and a playfully unapologetic style, resulting in a book that is as likely to make readers laugh as make them cringe. The book's messy, rambling charm wears thin toward the end, when Dawkins begins to feel like a caricature. But he redeems himself with straight talk about

serious issues, too, like the double standards of race in basketball. Raw, provocative and as unsubtle as a shattering backboard, this is a look at how it used to be-from a man who was most definitely there. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

If you want an entertaining look at Darryl Dawkins and basketball, this is a good choice to read. Dawkins takes the reader on a fast-paced, fun ride through the many stops on his roller-coaster career. This is not to say that Dawkins isn't honest about the sometimes painful truth. He does admit some less-than-flattering things, but mostly he just glosses over his own weaknesses or shortcomings. Given his history and reputation, this was pretty much expected. Dawkins does succeed in shedding some light on some interesting teams and people. He also shows some serious insight and reflection at various times of the book, just not nearly enough times.

Maybe too honest. LOL... But I'd expect nothing less from Darryl. Great insight!

DAWKINS TELLS THE STORY OF HIS LIFE IN THIS EASY TO READ TALE. I FOUND HIM TO BE FUNNY, CANDID AND INTERESTING. HE USES A LOT OF WORDS AND TERMS THAT MAY NOT BE FOR ANYONE UNDER 18. DAWKINS WAS PURE POWER FOR THE 76ERS DURING HIS CAREER WITH THEM. HE COULD BREAK BACKBOARDS AND SHATTER THE GLASS AROUND THEM. HE WAS STRONG AS A BULL BUT GOT IN FOUL TROUBLE VERY OFTEN. HE CAME TO THE PROS STRAIGHT FROM HIGH SCHOOL. VERY UNUSUAL FOR THE TIMES. HIS LIFE OFF THE COURT IS MORE INTERESTING THAN ON. HIS VARIOUS ADDICTIONS TO ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SEX HURT HIS PLAY WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE THAN IT WAS. I LIKE THIS BOOK BUT BE AWARE OF THE LANGUAGE AND SEX TERMS.

The original high school to nba star, very fun to read. Interesting points of old school nba

Though Dawkins didn't have the most immortal NBA career, he does have the insights and understanding of the game to write a potentially powerhouse book. He deserves his place in history as the league's original entertainer and showman, and he did have a stone classic moment when he shattered the backboard to smithereens during a monster dunk. Dawkins is both smart enough and funny enough to understand the workings of the game while taking its dark side with a grain of salt. Thus he has great insights into the drug culture in pro sports, racial politics in the NBA of the 70's, the lowdown practices of agents and owners, and poor coaching. He also has many fascinating and

illuminating things to say about the current state of the NBA, with its focus on promotion and superstardom rather than the fundamentals of solid team ball. Darryl's great insights into these matters could have been the basis for a solid and powerful book of sports commentary. But here, the wisdom merely pops up occasionally in the midst of a funny but unremarkable bio about sex and partying, trash talking (though I did love the crack "Dennis Rodman's elevator didn't stop at the top floor"), and especially too much complaining about how referees mistreated him. Meanwhile, who knows what "professional" writer Charley Rosen was doing. We can't expect Dawkins to be a flawless writer, but having a supposed professional on board should have resulted in a book with more credibility. While Darryl's life story can be a fun read, I suggest that he write another book that sticks with commentary and criticism of modern basketball, because he knows what he's talking about. That book would be as powerful as one of his dunks. [~doomsdayer520~]

In basketball, the most important play is the slam dunk. Darryl Dawkins shattered at least two backboards during games in his NBA career via the slam dunk. So it is reasonable to call him the greatest basketball player who ever lived. Nobody knows how many backboards Dawkins has shattered in community centers and church gymnasiums throughout the world. But I would guess that it's in the hundreds. To my knowledge, Michael Jordan has never shattered a backboard. During the peak of his career, Dawkins was a real prankster. While he was on the road with the 76ers, he would break curfew and sneak into the local community centers in the middle of the night and shatter their backboards, leaving funny notes at the front desk saying stuff like, "backboard needs repair" and "broken glass on gym floor." He was a really funny and creative basketball player. This book tells the whole story.

I was Very Disappointed that Dawkins didn't mention his long-time teammate (and my favorite player) Caldwell Jones, except in passing, four times...I can't believe that, as long as they played together, Dawkins didn't have more to say about CJ...as if he thought CJ really wasn't that much of an impact on his career in the NBA...especially in his early years together with CJ...I guess that, since as far as I know, CJ wasn't into partying, and drugging (I don't know about 'femaling')...Dawkins thought CJ really was of no consequence...maybe he thought CJ was a 'country bumpkin', who only liked to drink beer and watch cartoons, off the court...

Chocolate Thunder is a light hearted bio on the fast and wild times of Darryl Dawkins. Whereas Darryl's bio is fairly comprehensive, one most surely understand who this is coming from. Darryl

certainly was not the most disciplined player on the Earth or even Lovetron. In other words, I question some of the motives and biases of Mr. Dawkins. Nonetheless, the read is very entertaining if a bit crass in spots. I love reading about his dunking exploits. Its interesting how such a wild and crazy basketball player like Darryl Dawkins eventually became a respected coach in the USBL and the IBA. I guess Darryl Dawkins has mellowed a bit with age. Nonetheless, this is strong on entertainment value.

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