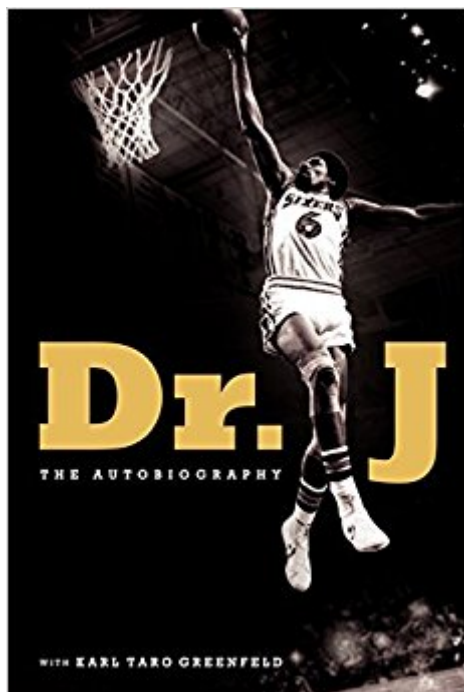


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Dr. J: The Autobiography



Synopsis

With startling honesty and an unmistakable voice, Dr. J is a historic self-portrait of an American legend, Julius "The Doctor" Erving. With his flights of improvisation around the basket and his towering afro, Julius Erving became one of the most charismatic (and revolutionary) players basketball has ever known. But while the public has long revered this cultural icon, few have ever known of the double life of Julius Erving. Dr. J traces the inner lives of the nearly perfect player and the imperfect man—and how he has come to terms with both.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If not the greatest basketball player of all time, Julius Erving was the first and best at bringing the playground to the pro game. In the early 1970s, when Erving burst onto the national scene with the American Basketball Association Virginia Squires, he was a revelation. Every game was its own Dr. J highlight reel of swooping dunks and twisting layups. After the ABA merged with the NBA, Erving secured a larger audience with the Philadelphia 76ers and eventually a spot in the Hall of Fame. In between the dunks, life happened, and that's what Erving has put down on paper in this revealing, insightful autobiography. He states early and often that he is a flawed man. The sexual temptations of fame were irresistible to him, damaging the serious relationships in his life and even producing a child, tennis player Alexandra Stevenson. Personal tragedy exacted a toll, too, with early death taking several family members. There's enough basketball here to keep fans interested, but the book isn't really about what happens on the court. It's about a thoughtful man who, for a time in his youth, was a famous athlete. A rewarding reading experience.

--Wes Lukowsky

“A deeply personal and almost shockingly honest book.” (New York Daily News)
“There’s enough basketball here to keep fans interested, but the book isn’t really about what happens on the court. It’s about a thoughtful man who, for a time in his youth, was a famous athlete. A rewarding reading experience.”
(Booklist)
“The book is quite an accomplishment: a terrific memoir by a man worthy of one.” (Sports Illustrated)
“The NBA’s most transformative player submits an unusually revealing autobiography.” (Kirkus Reviews)

It brought back so many memories, reading this book. I grew up and came of age during Doc’s playing days, and watching his games on television or at the Spectrum inspired me to go out and hit the court. He was/is and always will be my favorite player. Dr J led pro basketball to heights of popularity that it had never seen before, even during the Chamberlain and Russell era. He had a great professional life and a tough-tragic at times personal life; he rose up and persevered through humility, honesty and hard work. This book is another class act, as is the Doctor.

I loved the player....but as an autobiographer, the book seemed overly detailed early and shallow in the last half to a third of it. Too much flowery language throughout and the short chapters did nothing to better move the story. I yearned for stories about his relationships with teammates....players we fans all know. But much of it was glossed over. A bit disappointing, but worth a Kindle buy.

much love for Julius" Dr J" Erving.. love watching him play at Campbell Park. Roosevelt Rough Riders vs Hempstead Tigers both teams 8-0 one of his friends he played basketball with 5'9 Al Williams, for the Tigers picked Roosevelt apart and we won by 20 and then the following month we had to go to Roosevelt High a very close game, Julius I think score 25 we lost 77 to 70 to the best high school games I've ever witnessed so to me the book is worth having

This is not mere sports biography. This is art. Dr. J had an amazing life. He deserved a great book. The opening, immediately after the introduction, is told in a child's point of view, almost like Joyce's "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," and take it from this sports biography connoisseur, Dr. J was an artist, and he at long last gets the piece of true novel-ish cinema he deserves.

I liked Dr. J's Autobiography because I admire Dr. J. I loved him in his hay day and now I know why. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about his life and it was very interesting to put together what he was actually going through at different points where you can actually remember and be in awe at what was going on in his life or actually happening. (if that makes sense, smile) I liked his order about things and his desire to always do the right thing, I share that semblance w/him. The only thing, and I sincerely mean the only thing, I didn't like or agree w/him is how he let his wife, Turquoise, come between him and his mom & family. I mean they were always so close and there was love for each other. I was actually surprised that he would do that being how orderly & righteous he is. But I do understand his point of view, just surprised that's all.

I've read plenty of autobiography's, but never felt compelled to write a review until now. This was a really good read. Dr J's led a pretty amazing life. Lot's of historical significance relative to the 60's and 70's. Pretty cool. Dr J gives great accounts of his basketball ascendance from playing for the Salvation Army, his high school team, UMass, barnstorming all over NY, then to the ABA & NBA. His greatness and accomplishments are recognized with amazing humility. He's a class act on the court. Brutal honesty regarding his infidelities and his children. Very heart felt. Definitely recommend this book even if your not a Dr J fan.

I followed Dr. J when he became a member of the Philadelphia 76ers and watched the wars with Boston, Lakers and many others. His fearless dunks over those much taller than he were amazing. His autobiography was very heart warming and I deeply respected the truthfulness of it especially the fights he had with his former wife Turquoise. Dr. J succumb to what many star athletes do and that's women. These women literally throw themselves at these guys and for many, the temptation is too great so a lot of them wind up having children by different women and pay for it through child support for years to come and may never even see the child. Great book!

I picked this up after seeing Dr. J on The Colbert Report. I was so happily surprised - I know there's smart athletes out there and I've read material from others in the past, but still it's a nice experience to dive into a book and find it well written with a good voice that lets you feel the growth of a star athlete from his earliest years. Growing up, I knew of The Doctor, and I'm sure I watched him play countless times, but I didn't know a ton about him - so for me this was a great introduction to how he changed the sport, as well as his life off the court. I'll be recommending this book to a lot of folks.

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