



From the Outside: My Journey Through Life and the Game I Love

Ray Allen

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The record-holding two-time National Basketball Association champion reflects on his work ethic, his on-the-court friendships and rivalries, and what it takes to have a long and successful career in this thoughtful, in-depth memoir

Playing in the NBA for 18 years, Ray Allen won championships with the Boston Celtics and the Miami Heat and entered the record books as the original king of the three-point shot. Known as one of the hardest-working and highest-achieving players in NBA history, this most dedicated competitor was legendary for his sharp shooting. From the Outside is his story in his words: a no-holds-barred look at his life and career, filled with behind-the-scenes stories and surprising revelations about the game he has always cherished.

Allen talks openly about his fellow players, coaches, owners, and friends, including LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, and Kevin Garnett. He reveals how, as a kid growing up in a military family, he learned about responsibility and respect—the key to making those perfect free throws and critical three-point shots.

From the Outside is the portrait of a gifted athlete and a serious man with a strongly defined philosophy about the game and the right way it should be played—a philosophy that, at times, set him apart from colleagues and coaches, while inspiring so many others, and lead to the most pivotal shot of his career: the unforgettable 3-pointer in the final seconds of Game 6 of the 2013 NBA finals against the San Antonio Spurs. Throughout, Allen makes clear that success in basketball is as much about what happens off the court as on, that devotion and commitment are the true essence of the game—and of life itself.

From the Outside: My Journey Through Life and the Game I Love Details

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From Reader Review From the Outside: My Journey Through Life and the Game I Love for online ebook

Patrick McGrady says

Ray Allen is one of my favorite players. He has that silky smooth jumper that ALWAYS looks like it will go in. Knock down shooters seem like the most psychotic players when it comes to routine and work ethic. I've heard Ray Allen and J.J. Redick talk about how obsessive they both got when it came to preparation. Kyle Korver had an off season workout routine that involved diving under water and moving a boulder across the ocean floor. Larry Bird used to get up thousands of shots in an empty gym with a ball boy, security guard, ANYBODY rebounding for him.

The book was fine. Allen is a pretty decent writer. His personality alone makes me believe he put in a lot of work and effort to this book. As a big Boston Celtics fan, I must admit that I was most intrigued to hear some behind the scenes details on that title year and the few years surrounding it. With all the Rondo anecdotes, I was not disappointed.

One lasting memory that I always think of when I think of Ray Allen is an old Celtics promo. I don't recall the year in particular. It starts off with fast highlights of Pierce scoring at will, cheerleaders, KG screaming and beating his chest, a Rondo behind the back dish, shots of fans in the Garden going nuts, etc. Pump up music blaring the whole time. Then at the very end, the music fades out and there is a 5-7 second shot of a huge, empty practice facility. All the lights are out except for a couple on the 2nd level. The only sound you hear is the 'whap, whap, whap, whap' of Ray Allen running on a treadmill. That is Ray Allen to me. The epitome of the 'first one in and last one to leave' cliche. I love that. That makes for such a great story. I appreciate knowing that behind every buzzer beater or big shot that Jesus knocked down and made me jump out of my seat for, there were 100,000 jumpers in an empty gym somewhere in Storrs, Boston, Seattle...

Brent Soderstrum says

I won this book through GoodReads First Read Program.

I am a sports fan but not a huge basketball fan. As a kid I followed all sport intensely and had favorite teams I followed with a passion. Due to life this has narrowed to baseball. I pay attention to other sports and watch occasional games but my intense following is now limited.

That being said, I truly enjoyed Ray Allen's autobiography in which he tells the reader about growing up the son of an Air Force Technician. He started out in California and spent his high school days in South Carolina. He explains how he fell in love with basketball and perfected his game. He also give you a glimpse of what it was like being a college recruit. He ends up going to Connecticut and spends three years there before going to the NBA.

The bulk of the book is Allen's description of Allen's 18 year career with the Milwaukee Bucks, Seattle, Supersonics, Boston Celtics and the Miami Heat. He gives you an up-close, in-the-locker-room view of what it is like to be in the NBA. He gives you glimpses into coaches and players who he liked and those he didn't like. He tells you about things he did great such as setting the record for most three point shots made and winning two NBA championships and he tells you about the time he messes up.

What I wish we would have heard more about was his life away from basketball. He does tell us about having a baby girl when he was still in high school, his marriage, and 5 kids including one who has diabetes and the problems his wife and he face with that. You don't hear much about his family though. Are his parent's alive? Did he ever rebuild the relationship with his father? What about his siblings? What about his faith? His political leanings? This book focuses on his NBA career, which is great, but I would like to get to know who Ray Allen the man is.

Andrew Laba says

Simply truth from one of the best to play the game

I think some times you need to pick up peace of literature that seems simple at first glance but you need to remember in order to create something simple and inspiring you need to work much harder.

If you want to learn what makes people greats at sports they play or life they live, seek some life advice or at the tough spot and need some inspiration this book is worth your time!

Joey says

Not enough Boston from Jesus.

The best part was when Ray Allen put dirty dishes on his roommate Travis Knight's bed because he kept leaving them all over the place.

Scott says

I'm a big Ray Allen fan and a Celtic fan so I was eager to hear more about the behind the scenes drama and the Heat move. I was pretty satisfied with this book. I moved through it in about 3 days. It was easy reading, especially if you are interested in and familiar with late 90s NBA basketball like I am. I am not mad at him at all like some folks might be, especially considering how he found out he was traded previously (mostly by the media, and on the day).

Mike says

This was a great book, not only from a biography perspective, but gave great insight into the life of an NBA Star. The outside world has a personal perspective of these players, but Ray gives great detail about the realities they face every day. I was always curious as to how Ray Allen was so disciplined, this book did a great job walking the reader through those parts of his life. Highly recommended for any NBA fan, or any one who's interested in hearing the behind the scenes of the life in the NBA.

Steven says

The writing was pedestrian and cliche-ridden, but a rewarding read because the author has 1) an exceptionally long career's worth of stories in which he crossed paths with a lot of basketball legends, and 2) complete willingness to speak his mind about said legends, while holding nothing back. Anyone who has followed the NBA for the past two decades will find plenty of worthwhile anecdotes and observations; anyone who doesn't care about the league should skip this one.

Favian says

Ray Allen recalls the difficulties of growing up in Dalzell, South Carolina, a troubled neighborhood where kids do not have an aspirational figure to emulate. He highlights how basketball kept him on the straight and true, and how it was the one constant during his nomadic childhood. This was the guy that SLAM once projected to "fade into obscurity". Allen candidly shares experiences that brought out the best and worst of the people around him. A noticeable pattern was how he would hit it off well with new teammates and coaches at the beginning, only for the relationship to sour as time went by. I was a bit disappointed that he never mentioned Rashard Lewis when they won the 2013 NBA championship with the Miami Heat. After all, it was a culmination of their work together during their tenure with the Seattle Supersonics. All in all, we see a man who preaches routine, and that the truly great players are not only determined by the number of points they scored but by their all-around impact in the game.

Ken Heard says

Ray Allen could have been a spoiled NBA brat, a prima donna rich kid. Instead, he became a team leader with wisdom, patience and humility. Those characteristics show in his autobiography and its what makes this a decent read. He touches on some issues, like racism that he dealt with in his career, arguments with other players and coaches, lazy teammates, superstars who only want the ball and don't think about teamwork and the massive amounts of money players get in the NBA, but he's fair and doesn't go overboard. His clashes with George Karl, the Milwaukee coach, were explained well and gave me a different opinion of Karl after reading Allen's book.

I was surprised I enjoyed this book as much. I read a lot of sports books and find a lot of bios are just quickly written things about a player's career with little info on other players who cross the subject's path. This was an easy read, but it was also informative. It was a good book on a great player and worth the reader's time to dig into it... especially if you are an NBA fan of the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Andrew says

Ray Allen is a Hall of Fame basketball player with two championships. Allen's memoir starts at a young age all the way to the end of his basketball career. Allen was never an eye-catching celebrity on or off the court. Allen also stayed married to the same woman and had four kids. Overall, Allen had an impressive career. For many this book will not have the juicy gossip or slander that most celebrity memoirs seems to follow.

This is an inspiring book for teens looking for role-models. For avid sports fans, Allen gets into the detail on specific games and playoff scenarios. His comments on training routine and practice schedule is interesting. Allen also provides snippets about coaches and players who he liked and lessons he learned. Allen recommends players to develop and mature in college instead of going straight to the pros. You will respect Ray Allen more after reading this book.

Jan says

Whether you recognize his name or not, read this inspiring journey reaching professional basketball.

Georgia Papakirk says

Honestly, I haven't read many sports biographies. But I made an exception for my absolute favorite player Mr. Ray Allen. Since I wasn't alive for some of his career, it was good to fill in a lot of tidbits and unique information I wouldn't have known unless it came from his mouth. He is such an interesting player and generally has a lot of class. I didn't know how routine based he was, and it took me aback at how much of a good person he is. Genuinely intelligent and driven which is heavily reflected through his career. He was so dedicated to his craft, his ethic, and his family and would not let distractions interfere with his legacy. I am so proud that he will be inducted this year to the Hall of Fame and continue to be proud of Mr.

Shuttlesworth. p.s. I would highly recommend reading the acknowledgements because it displays the people that built him which is something I love.

Jacob O'connor says

Should the NBA let kids jump straight to the league from high school? Should they require a year of college?

Allen attended 3 years at UConn. He recommends others do likewise. His reasoning is, it gives the player time to develop and mature. All while having a support system. I disagree. I think the only requirement should be the player's ability. If a high school kid can play, let him play. Let him get paid. If the team wants to protect their investment, they'll catch on. They put in the support systems the kids need.

As for the book, it was quite good. Read it in a single sitting. I've long respected Ray Allen, even before he came to the Heat. He's smart. He's cool under pressure. Doesn't hurt that he hit perhaps the most important shot in Finals history. Worth mentioning for Heat fans. He was critical of Eric Spoelstra's practices.

Julie Laumark says

It has been my pleasure & privilege to have had conversations with Ray over the years. This book made me feel like I was having another, albeit one sided conversation with him as I was reading it. I have always found Ray to be inspirational, inciteful, & wise beyond his years. I became a fan of Ray's not for his work ethic, his amazing talent on the court or even for his charity work. I have been following Ray's career since he was a UCONN student & would bring his toddler to with him to watch the UCONN women's games. I

thought that spoke volumes about his values & priorities. God may not care that a person can make a jump shot, but He certainly cares about what kind of parent you are.

If you are a fan of Ray's (like I am), you won't be disappointed. He doesn't answer all of the questions I had., but like "He Got Game", I am hoping for a sequel. Congratulations on your upcoming induction to the Hall of Fame, Ray. Looking forward to see what happens next. Thank you for this amazing journey!

Andrew Penning says

One of my all time favorite players but this book was as dry as his jumper was wet.
