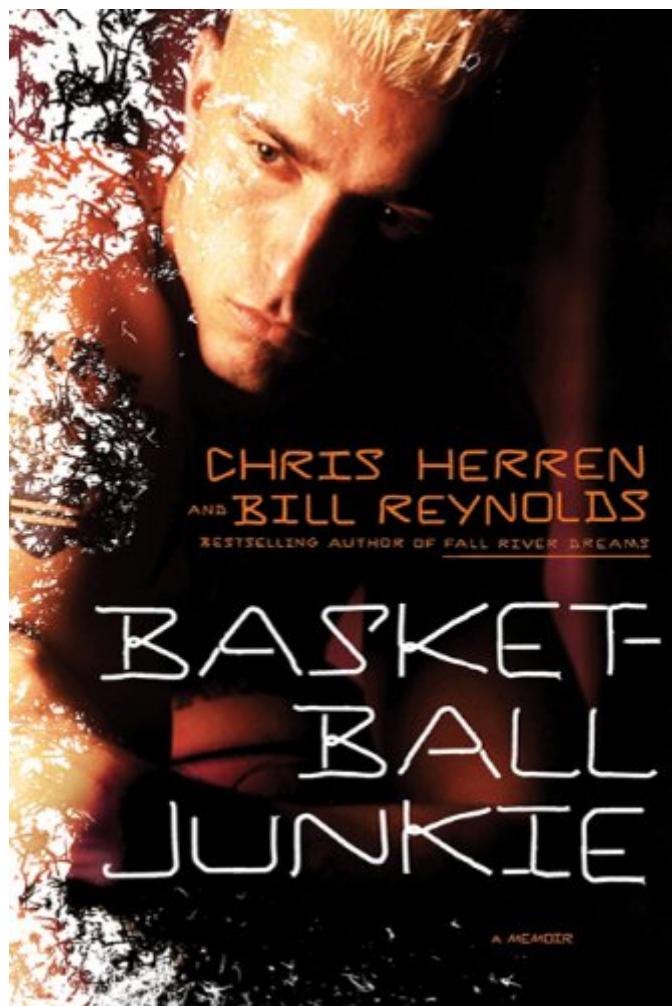


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Basketball Junkie: A Memoir



Synopsis

I was dead for thirty seconds. That's what the cop in Fall River told me. When the EMTs found me, there was a needle in my arm and a packet of heroin in the front seat. At basketball-crazy Durfee High School in Fall River, Massachusetts, junior guard Chris Herren carried his family's and the city's dreams on his skinny frame. His grandfather, father, and older brother had created their own sports legends in a declining city; he was the last, best hope for a career beyond the shuttered mills and factories. Herren was heavily recruited by major universities, chosen as a McDonald's All-American, featured in a Sports Illustrated cover story, and at just seventeen years old became the central figure in Fall River Dreams, an acclaimed book about the 1994 Durfee team's quest for the state championship. Leaving Fall River for college, Herren starred on Jerry Tarkanian's Fresno State Bulldogs team of talented misfits, which included future NBA players as well as future convicted felons. His gritty, tattooed, hip-hop persona drew the ire of rival fans and more national attention: Rolling Stone profiled him, 60 Minutes interviewed him, and the Denver Nuggets drafted him. When the Boston Celtics acquired his contract, he lived the dream of every Massachusetts kid—â• but off the court Herren was secretly crumbling, as his alcohol and drug use escalated and his life spiraled out of control. Twenty years later, Chris Herren was married to his high-school sweetheart, the father of three young children, and a heroin junkie. His basketball career was over, consumed by addictions; he had no job, no skills, and was a sadly familiar figure to those in Fall River who remembered him as a boy, now prowling the streets he once ruled, looking for a fix. One day, for a time he cannot remember, he would die. In his own words, Chris Herren tells how he nearly lost everything and everyone he loved, and how he found a way back to life. Powerful, honest, and dramatic, *Basketball Junkie* is a remarkable memoir, harrowing in its descent, and heartening in its return.

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Customer Reviews

I was prompted to read this book after seeing Chris Herron speak at my son's middle school. If you ever get a chance to see him speak, I highly recommend it. He is as sobering in person as he is in this book. He is truly passionate about his message to kids but he does not sugar-coat it. His message to the kids is that he was one of them once and this can happen to you. I have never been an addict and neither have my children but I know some people who have. This book gives non-addicts great insight into the thinking process of addicts and helps build a better understanding of their issues. Highly recommend it to anyone who has young kids who play sports.

Great story about a kid who had the world at his fingertips, and "drugged" it away, and also was an alcoholic. After reading Herren's story, you'll probably wonder, like I did, how he can still be alive. In fact, he was once dead for 30 seconds. Now he's a family man and a motivational speaker. A lot of today's athletes will benefit by reading this man's life story, and how all that talent became secondary to getting high.

I love Chris Herren.... what's more amazing, the fact that he was a NBA player as a full blown addict, or that, after all he went through, how long he was addicted, he actually beat it & is doing great. I'm a Coach and I show my players clips of Chris Herren when I want to show them how to play

If you ever need a good inspirational book, the look no further. Short of being in a war or genocide, I think Chris Herren's life has been as close to hell on earth as you can get: from the highs of the NBA to the lows of chasing his drugs around the world and in the process, almost truly losing

everything. But the fact that somehow, he survived is a testament to the triumph of human and divine will. Admittedly, I was led to the book by "Unguarded," the ESPN movie that Herren did. As there is only so much you can say in an hour, I always felt that there was more to the story and on that level, this book does not disappoint. And actually, this book was why I bought a Kindle, but that's not for this review. For those that criticize it on a grammatical level, remember that these are not the memoirs of an English major, but of an athlete, so there are bound to be a few mistakes.

This is a brilliant and moving account of a young man out of control finding the ways back to his loving family

Many years ago I read the book Fall River Dreams which chronicled the basketball playing days of a young high school superstar named Chris Herren and I had been following his turbulent career ever since that time. His problems with addiction during his college and pro playing days had been well documented in the Boston press and I watched what was once a very promising basketball career slowly slip away. In regard to the book Basketball Junkie, I found it to be a great read. Mr. Herren is very open and honest in regard to telling the story of his problems with addiction and the hellish roads it took him down. You do not have to be a basketball fan to enjoy this book, it is a great read about what is ultimately a triumph of the human spirit over an addiction problem that lasted nearly 20 years. Chris has now been addiction free for over three years and I am hopeful that Chris will be able to stay clean. I would also highly recommend The recently released ESPN documentary Unguarded which did a great job of showing the Chris Herren story.

A great book that anyone can relate to. Well written, brutally honest, and fascinating. If you like NCAA/NBA, are interested in addiction/recovery/mental illness, world travel, or redemption stories this will probably be one of your favorite books as it gives you an inside look without sugar coating in an arena you never get to see. That is what makes this book so great, the honesty. Herren comes across as a man ashamed of what he did, but so proud of who he has become that he doesn't hold back one bit of gritty detail no matter how bad he looks. I think this is an important book and should be read by anyone who wants to understand addiction or the human condition in general. A must buy.

If you've ever wondered why someone becomes a junkie or continuously throws positives of their lives away, this is a book for you to gain insight into one particular case. There is a universal

bottoming of cheating, stealing and lying which comes through and how Chris's addiction becomes the most important focus of his life. His recovery and the chance at life he has now gives hope to anyone that may be struggling. Functionally, the transitions within this book chapters could have been smoother, which the co-author should have fixed. Chris Herren should not be responsible for things such as that because as we learned he was a D student in High School and barely attended any classes while at college. I'm not talking about the grammar, pace or sentence structure but rather how the story moves from one place to another. Bill Reynolds could have done a better job at smoothing those transitions.

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