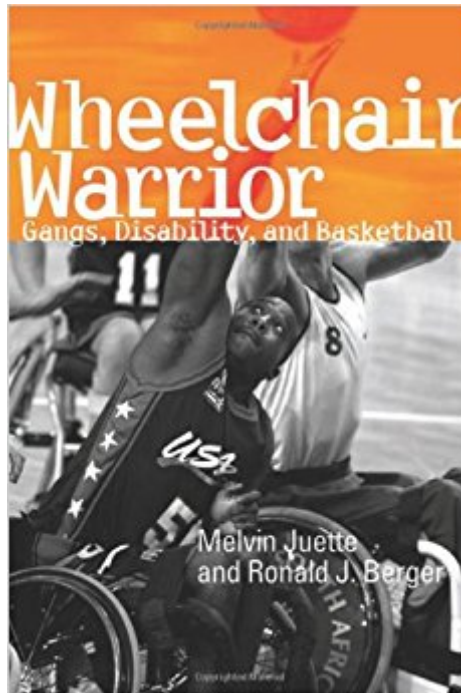




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Wheelchair Warrior: Gangs, Disability, And Basketball



Synopsis

Melvin Juette has said that becoming paralyzed in a gang-related shooting was both the worst and best thing that happened to him. The incident, he believes, surely spared the then sixteen year-old African American from prison and/or an early death. It transformed him in other ways, too. He attended college and made wheelchair basketball his passion, ultimately becoming a star athlete and playing on the U.S. National Wheelchair Basketball Team. In *Wheelchair Warrior*, Juette reconstructs the defining moments of his life with the assistance of sociologist Ronald Berger. His poignant memoir is bracketed by Berger's thoughtful introduction and conclusion, which places this narrative of race, class, masculinity and identity into proper sociological context, showing how larger social structural forces defined his experiences. While Juette's story never gives into despair, it does challenge the idea of the supercrip.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Some readers who pick up this memoir may be put off by the introductory chapter, written by coauthor Berger, a sociology professor. Although it is an important part of the book (it puts the experiences of Juette, a young Chicago gang member paralyzed by a bullet, into a sociological context), it is written so awkwardly, so dully, that it is instantly off-putting. But stick around, because the bulk of the book, evidently written by Juette himself, is entirely different: clean, straightforward prose; virtually no clunky sociological jargon; and plenty of raw drama and emotion. Juette's story follows his evolution from boy to man, from gang member to wheelchair athlete, and it's a story of determination and inspiration that will touch everyone who reads it. The book is aimed at

both general readers and scholars, which perhaps explains the virtually impenetrable introduction; just ignore that, and focus on what Juette has to tell us. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Juette's story follows his evolution from boy to man, from gang member to wheelchair athlete, and it's a story of determination and inspiration that will touch everyone who reads it." "Booklist

the book arrived fast in excellent condition! this was a book on my son's summer reading list and he actually really enjoyed the book. This is someone who doesn't usually pick up a book! So he read it and did a report on it with no problem..so thank you!! This book wasn't available at Barnes and Noble and they said they couldn't order it, so it came through!!

as expected

I met Melvin Juette and then read his story. An incredible story of youth, courage, and selfless giving back. An insider's view of gang violence and the strength to build a life using competitive basketball.

needed for school and was perfect

Wheelchair Warrior is an eye-opening portrayal of Melvin's fight through life, whether it be during his time as a youth involved in a gang or his rise to the top of wheelchair basketball. The book is inspirational for everyone who reads it because the adversity Melvin faces can be related to anyone's everyday life. I enjoyed the book from cover to cover.

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