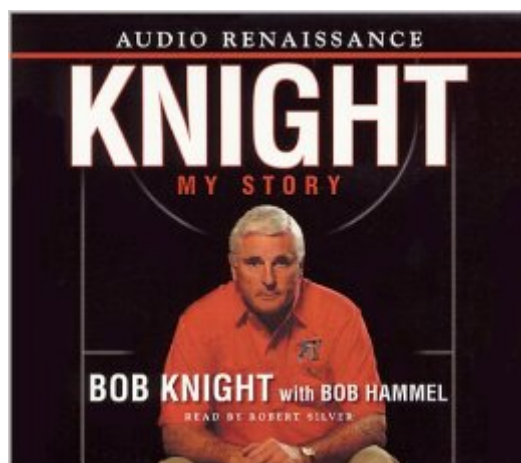


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Knight: My Story



Synopsis

A Season on the Brink is a book about Bob Knight is the bestselling sports book of all time. Here is the only book that can surpass it a book about Bob Knight by Bob Knight. In college basketball, the name Bob Knight is synonymous with greatness and winning. Just take a glance at the Knight file. The numbers and achievements that prove what he has done, not only for Indiana University, but for the game itself, are there in black and white. In this riveting memoir, Coach Knight talks about his extraordinary basketball career, addressing both the public triumphs and the highly publicized controversies, often providing his side of the story for the first time. His story begins with the most public and painful event in his life: his front-page dismissal as Indiana University's basketball coach after 29 years in that position. But the story of Bob Knight is so much more than that. Above all, it is a story about one man's tremendous success. How did he become the head coach at Army at the age of 24? How did he build a dynasty at Indiana? What principles has he lived by and coached by that kept the best players coming to Indiana to play for him? Knight: My Story reveals a very personal and until now unseen part of Bob Knight's life. His legions of fans will all line up to learn more about him. Bob Knight has shown time and again that he is the most well-known coach in college basketball: He has won over 700 games (618 with Indiana University) He has been National Coach of the Year four times He coached ten Big Ten MVPs He is the only coach who can boast an NCAA Championship, NIT Title, the Pan American Gold, and the Olympic gold medal He was inducted into the National Basketball Hall of Fame in 1991 He graduated 98% of his players He maintains a remarkable .737 winning record

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Customer Reviews

Bob Knight is a complex man. The media portrays him in one primary light. We all have formed opinions of the man based upon whatever the media spews and we're at their mercy to provide unbiased facts. We also know that isn't always the case. I'm not writing to state that the words in Bob Knight's book are all true. What I am writing is that they seem to be his words. It's as if he were speaking to you directly. There are some clever stories in the book that demonstrate how the man thinks and feels and what he believes in. He certainly does entertain whether through his coaching prowess or in his dialogue. He's not flawless by any means, but as a reader who has enjoyed reading Jesse Ventura's books on his take, I would recommend this to be a good read if you want to learn more about Bob Knight's side of the story. He may be biased in it, and rightfully so because it's his voice. He finally gets a chance to have his opinion out in the public as the media rarely cares about his version. After reading this, you may change your opinion on the man and understand that he too is a mere mortal man. He just happens to be thrust into the limelight. It's a fun read at most times. There are some passages where he defends himself that seems skeptical to me. However, I take everything I read with a grain of salt. Any sports enthusiast, or those who appreciate psychology, will likely enjoy the words he's been wanting to get out since the 40's. Those who are easily duped by everything the press spews might not enjoy the book. This isn't the finest prose I've ever read, but it is certainly entertaining and worth the money!

Let's get my bias out of the way first: I like Coach Knight. While he has lost his temper at times, he is an honest person and a fine teacher of college men. The vast majority of players who have played for him claim that they are better people because of him and I believe them. That being said, I can't get quite excited about this book as I can regarding Texas Tech's chances in the upcoming basketball season. While this book is full of many interesting anecdotes and stories, it lacks organization. This is especially true as you near the end of the book. Instead of following an outline or logical flow, the book jumps from issue to issue and story without logical transitions. Overall, I would recommend it to people who are big Bobby Knight fans except that I would be surprised if there is anything in the book that would be all the surprising to a big fan. What I enjoyed was when he would share his opinions of other sports stars and coaches and even his opinions of political leaders. For example we learn of his friendship with Ted Williams and hunting trips with President Bush and Stormin' Norman but that comes mixed between some other topics that aren't as compelling. There have been other books written about Knight such as Feinstein's that might not be as flattering but might be more compelling to read. I would recommend reading this book and one of

the others and comparing them. It would make for an interesting contrast. In short, I'll be rooting for the Coach again this season, but it won't be because of anything that I read about it in this book.

Whether you love him, hate him, or are neutral toward him (I'm in the last category), Bob Knight's book is a fascinating glimpse at his personality, his Indiana basketball teams, and college basketball in general. For Indiana basketball fans (I'm an ACC fan) and college basketball fans in general (a category I fit into), this is a must read. Knight gives a lot of detail about his Indiana teams, especially those that won national championships, and discusses his point of view on the state of college basketball today. There are really two main topics that run throughout the book - and that is Indiana basketball and the controversies that have surrounded Knight - mostly because of his volatile temper. From a basketball standpoint this is really a great inside look at the college game and the Hoosiers. Knight's detestation of losing and lack of effort are part of what gets him into trouble because he is clearly a disciplinarian and expects a lot from his players and others involved in the program. On the other hand that is also why his teams traditionally have been over achievers. In my opinion, his success in college basketball has been mostly because of his coaching talent and getting his teams to play like a team instead of selfishly. Even though in some ways Knight claims, and I think in a lot of ways rightfully so, that a lot of controversies about his temper and clashes with players, officials, or others is a result of his reputation and are undeserved. Frankly, I do believe him on this account. And he does seem contrite about some incidents that are clearly his own fault where he's lost his temper. Some may argue that he is not apologetic enough or doesn't face his own faults in some of the controversies and I can't disagree with that either. On these issues the reader will have to decide what to believe. But either way, this is highly readable and very interesting.

If you're a Knight fan, you will love this book. If you're not, you're likely to hate it. Coach Knight recounts many of the incidents that have made him one of the polarizing figures in sports. Find out what really happened in his final seasons at IU. Laugh heartily at his tales of run-ins with non-fans from New Orleans to Puerto Rico. Observe his relationships with colleagues (Parcells, Larusa, Woody Hayes), players (Jordan, Thomas, Alford, Cheney), and friends (Ted Williams, Dick Vitale). Best of all, appreciate how he uses basketball as a vehicle for teaching character. My only disappointment was his neglect of the reported friction between him and some of his former players (who I also admire) like Alford and Krzyzewski. I wish he would have explained or dismissed the media's fixation on these supposed grievances. Instead, he ignores it. If you are disgusted by the

deluge of recent negative stories from the sports page, then read this and be confident that at least one man requires his players study, behave, and play hard.

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