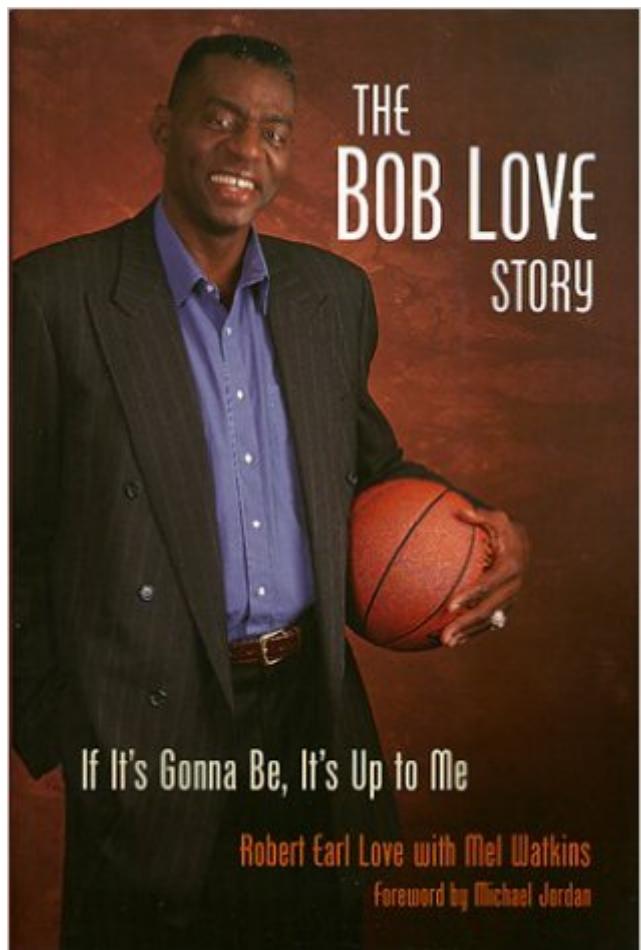


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# The Bob Love Story: If It's Gonna Be, It's Up To Me



## **Synopsis**

Chicago Bulls legend Bob Love was a great basketball player, but his story goes well beyond the court. It's story about the rise and fall of a man who became a dishwasher after an injury cut short his playing career. It's a story about a man pulling himself out of obscurity and getting back into the game as director of community relations for the Bulls. Love also tells how he conquered his stuttering problem and now gives motivational speeches to more than a quarter-million teenagers and adults every year. His story is not only inspiring to young athletes, but to any person who is facing adversity.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

It's amazing that a one-time NBA super-star ends up mopping floors, waiting on tables and enduring major abuse and embarrassment while trying to make ends meet...every NBA executive should read this to ensure that League policy does not allow this to happen again. I bought this to hear some inside details on one of my favorite NBA players of all time (I remember in 1974 going out to buy "Pro-Keds" sneakers for my season because that's what Bob Love wore) and came away stunned at what Love went through before re-claiming his life. I was vaguely aware that he'd had hard times post-retirement, but not at this level and this account, quite frankly, makes me admire him more. In brutally "straight-forward" writing he details all the problems that beset him and how his inner-strength and formidable character allowed him to keep his sanity and, ultimately, allowed him to get a semblance of dignity back. You won't get too much basketball detail here (his career takes

on surprisingly few pages), but I think that this is Love's intent. This is the success story of a man resurrecting his life from the depths, some of which he helped make (failure to face his stuttering problem) and speaks to a higher level than basketball. My heart truly goes out to him and I'm very glad to hear that he's now doing well. An inspiring read!

I purchased a copy of this book after hearing Mr. Love speak to a crowd of over 300 people. I was engrossed in the book from the start and completed the read on my flight home. It is a definite must read for any athlete or person who enjoys sports and believes that life is more than just a game. It provides a human look at the sports world that is so often overlooked, candy-coated and glorified. The poignancy of this book is driven home when you are privileged to hear Mr. Love speak, see his conquest over his disability and feel the passion he has for youths.

Bob Love was a member of a fierce Chicago Bulls unit patrolling the parquet on the West Side of Chicago during the early 1970's that contended perennially during one of the most charismatic times in the NBA. This Bulls team was not charismatic, but they were incredibly tough. And if Norm Van Lier and Jerry Sloan were the heart of these teams, Bob Love and Chet Walker were the soul. And yet, Chicago never really knew their star forward, as stuttering precluded his media exposure. As a matter of fact, it isolated him, diminished his earning power, and doomed many of his relationships. Yet Mr. Love, without bitterness, tells a harrowing story, found all too common among former pro athletes, of ending up broke, bottoming out, and starting all over again. Yet Mr. Love does not have drugs and alcohol to blame. He did not succumb to these demons. He was held back by his speech impediment, and in some cases by poor judgement, but remarkably, never stopped believing in himself. Bob Love was a fourth round pick in the NBA, but persevered, to become a four time all-star. The story he tells is often harrowing. And perhaps cathartic for him to relay. Yet, he tells it well, and with pride in his new found ability to communicate. Bob Love is one of the truly good guys sports has produced. Hats off to him for coming out on top.

I had to read this book for a course on stuttering for my major. To my surprise when I opened it the book was autographed by Bob Love!!! Extra exciting!

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