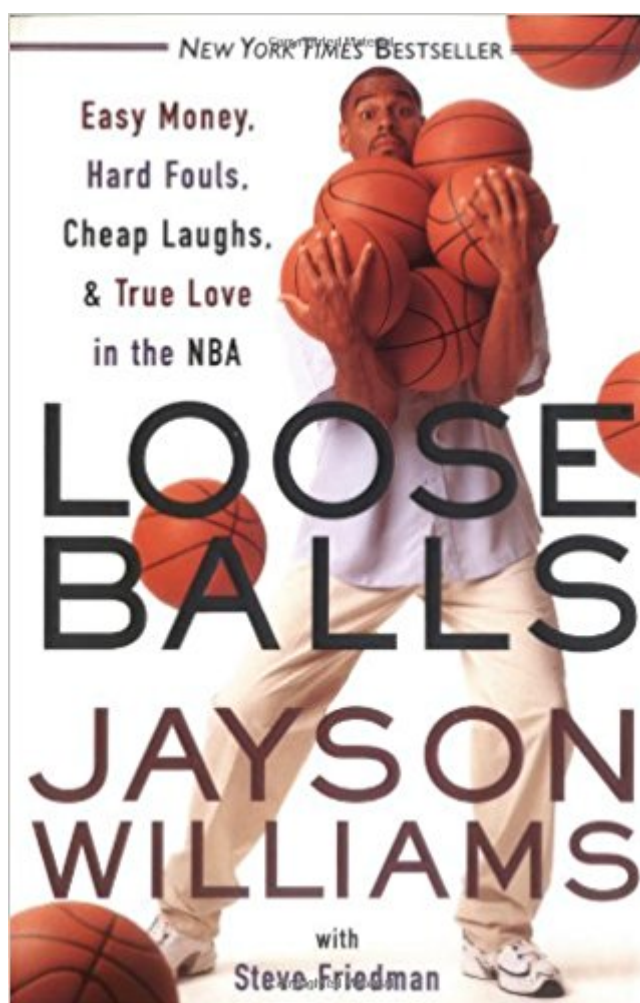


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Loose Balls: Easy Money, Hard Fouls, Cheap Laughs, And True Love In The NBA



Synopsis

The first candid report from a land of fragile egos, available women, unexpected tenderness, intramural fistfights, colossal partying, bizarre humor, inconceivable riches, and desperate competition, *Loose Balls* does for roundball what *Ball Four* did for hardball. From revelations about the meanest, softest, and smelliest players in the league, to Williams's early days as a "young man with a lot of money and not a lot of sense" to his strong and powerful views on race, privilege, and giving back, *Loose Balls* is a basketball book unlike any other. No inspirational pieties or chest-thumping boasting here—instead, Jayson Williams gives us the real insider tales of refs, groupies, coaches, entourages, and all the superstars, bench warmers, journeymen, clowns, and other performers in the rarefied circus that is professional basketball.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Broadway; 1 edition (March 13, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0767905695

ISBN-13: 978-0767905695

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #320,413 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball > Professional

Customer Reviews

Here's what you probably know about Jayson Williams: as of 2000, he has been in the NBA for 10 years, played in one all-star game, is one of the league's best rebounders, and has a seven-year, \$100 million contract. He also has a reputation as a loudmouth with an attitude problem. Here's what you probably don't know: he comes from a mixed-race family, lost two of his sisters to AIDS, adopted their children, and became a grandfather at 28, plus he calls his mom and dad a few times every day. Here's another thing you might not know about him: he's funny. Williams shows off his sense of humor in *Loose Balls*, an irreverent look at life in the NBA. His style is conversational and snappy, with short vignettes strung together into brief, loosely themed chapters. One chapter, "What's Young & Skinny & Can Do a 580-Degree-Double-Pump-Backward Jam but Doesn't Know How to Shoot a Jump Shot or Set a Back-Side Pick? Meet the Future of the NBA" is all of eight

pages long. However, by the end of the book Williams has dished the dirt on dozens of his colleagues--who is the biggest flopper (Rodman, of course), who is the worst trash talker (Gary Payton), and who is the dirtiest player (not John Stockton, but his tight shorts are a problem: "Someone should tell the man the ABA days are over."). Williams also offers observations on coaches, refs, cheerleaders, and fans across the NBA--as well as events from his childhood, early career, and well-publicized days as a wild man. Williams's candor and charm are apparent throughout the book, as is his love of basketball. Hoops fans will love this book. --M. Stein --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

The \$100-million star of the hapless New Jersey Nets, Williams may want to be remembered as "a good man," but this brash collection of anecdotes and rants shows that he can be as cruel as he is kind. For one, Williams is willing to speak his mind so shamelessly he makes Keyshawn Johnson look shy--yet that brazenness may be the book's greatest strength. His insights into talking trash and team dynamics, his often scathing portraits of coaches and players, his look at front-office machinations--all make for scandalous reading. (Of course, Williams may have to wear a throat guard and flak jacket on the court once other players read this book.) The book's thematic structure, showing that Williams has reformed himself from his wild early days, mixes up old, sometimes violent, escapades with recent good works, such as visiting sick children in hospitals. His accounts of the brutal prejudice he and his family encountered in South Carolina will shock many of his fans, while his descriptions of the intensive loyalty he feels toward his college buddies reveal a more appealing side of his character. In the end, readers may not like Williams, but they'll have had fun hearing him run at the mouth. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Coming from someone who knows Jayson very well, this book is all he said it was going to be! I've heard these stories a thousand times....and each time they get better! I didn't think I would react the same way to the stories because his delivery is so unique, but I was wrong. I laughed just as hard as I did when I heard them the first time. I did worry a bit because I knew I was going to be in the book, but I even had to laugh at myself. This book is a must-read for sports fans of all kinds!

Jayson Williams is one of most comedic and genuine personalities in all of professional sports. He, along, with Charles Barkely, are experts at both rebounding and scoring as well as interviewing and clowning. At many stages of the book I found myself laughing out loud and will easily remember

some of the outlandish events contained within the pages. Only one characteristic of the book restrained me from conveying the rating of 5 stars. After reading the Gentleman's Quarterly article (the funniest article that I have EVER read) which shared many of the same stories as the book, I expected more of the same. Instead, Loose Balls was more the PG-13 version of the article, and apparently some of the humor was lost in the translation. To me, a common trait to sports is the presentation of attitude, and, associated with it, the use of explicatives. The lack of these within the pages of the book made it somewhat less real, less genuine. To another athlete, the difference would be negligible, but to Jayson Williams, who is one of the most genuine personalities in all of professional sports, it makes all the difference.

If you live in New York or New Jersey, you know someone who knows Jayson Williams. You've heard a good Jayson story- you saw him speeding down Route 78 or in a restaurant somewhere. Well, if you're the one guy who somehow hasn't met Jay, read Loose Balls, and you'll know a suprising amount about him. He is the funniest man I have ever met. He makes people around him feel like they're tight. He loves kids, even your kids. And he tells some of the best damn stories about sports and athletes and people you'll ever hear. Not all are laugh-out-loud funny. Some are just modest smile inducers. Some are wet your pants funny. You can read it in an afternoon, or over a few days. Jump from vignette to vignette (you can't really call them "chapters") in no particular order, and enjoy a tour through the life of a ten million dollar man who is more down to earth than the guy who reads your electric meter. Sure, the book would have benefitted from a smooth, glitzy editing job-- but that's not Jayson. This is. It's not world peace or a cure for cancer (though proceeds from the book go to a Parkinson's foundation--his Mom has the disease). Smile a little and rest easy with the knowledge that there is at least one athlete who smiles, laughs and cries with the rest of us.

Better than I thought. Great read!

can't come any closer to the players attitudes and characters and mis-adventures than this book....its both hilarious and serious at the same time

The stories were so humorous that I couldn't stop laughing.

This is a great read from one of the classiest guys in the NBA. He is brutally honest about himself and everyone in the NBA (the further you read, the more you'll discover just how disturbing an

individual Armen Gilliam is). In true Jayson Williams fashion, all his proceeds from the book go to charity. This is entertaining all the way through, nearly impossible to put down...sports fans and non-sports fans alike will enjoy this one.

I know of Jayson's story before I read the book, it's a shame, the book while funny is a little sad it shows a man with such a God-given talent that still does not have friends just hangs on.. some enjoyment but not the best sports book I have read

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