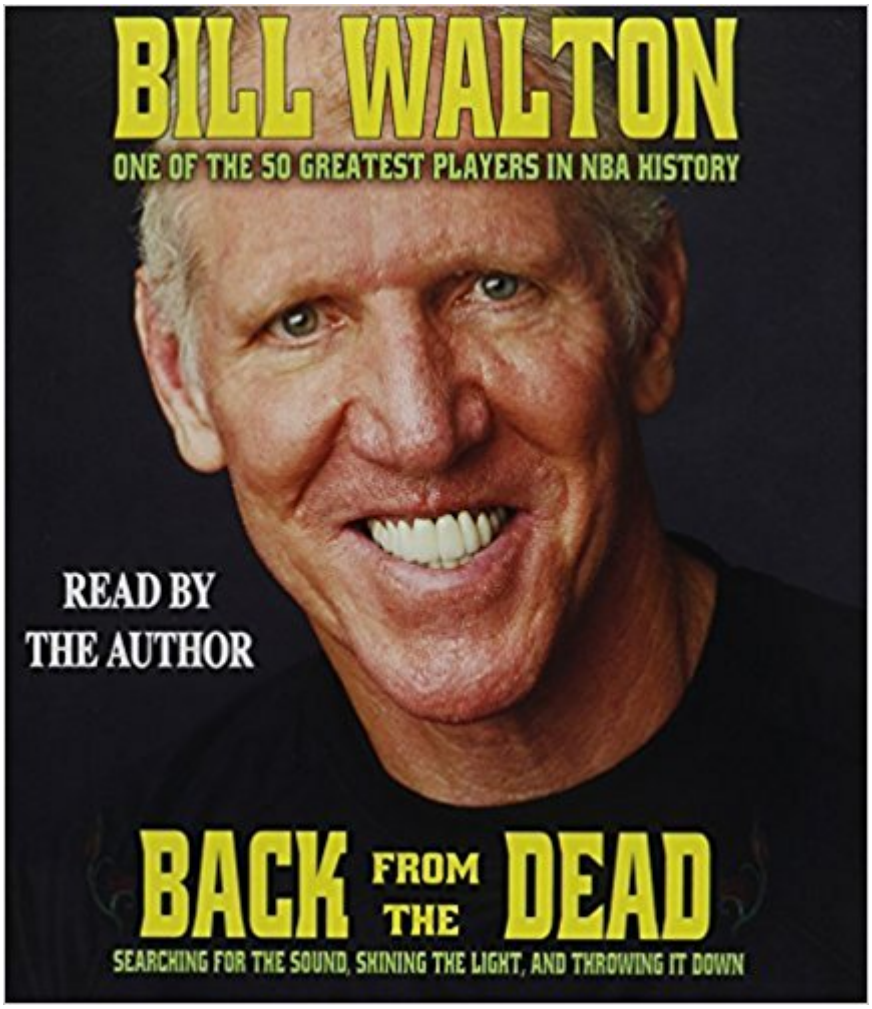
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Back From The Dead



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Synopsis

This inspiring memoir from sports and cultural icon Bill Walton recounts his devastating injuries and amazing recoveries, set in the context of his UCLA triumphs under John Wooden, his storied NBA career, and his affinity for music and the Grateful Dead.In February 2007, Bill Walton suffered a catastrophic spinal collapseÃ¢â ¬â •the culmination of a lifetime of injuriesÃ¢â ¬â •that left him unable to move. He spent three years on the floor of his house, eating his meals there and crawling to the bathroom, where he could barely hoist himself up onto the toilet. The excruciating pain and slow recovery tested Walton to the fullest. But with extraordinary patience, fortitude, determination, and sacrificeÃ¢â ¬â •and pioneering surgeryÃ¢â ¬â •he recovered, and now shares his life story in this remarkable and unique memoir. Walton grew up in San Diego in the 1950s and 1960s and was deeply influenced by the political and cultural upheavals of that period. Although he strongly identified with the cool people, particularly in music and politics, his greatest role model outside his family was super-straight UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, a thoughtful, rigorous mentor who seemed immune to the turmoil of the times. Although there was always tension and conflict between them, the two men would speak nearly every day for forty-three years, until WoodenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s death at age ninety-nine. Despite a lifelong stuttering affliction Walton chose a career in broadcasting after his playing days ended. He eventually won an Emmy Award and other accolades for broadcasting and was recognized as a leading media pundit. John Wooden once said that no greatness ever came without sacrifice. Nothing better illustrates this saying than the real story of WaltonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s life. In his own words, Back from the Dead shares this dramatic story, including his basketball and broadcasting careers, his many setbacks and rebounds, and his ultimate triumph as the toughest of champions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Bill Walton won at every level with extraordinary skill and intelligence. Yet more importantly, he continues to win in the game of life."

Bill Walton was NCAA player of the year at UCLA from 1972 to 1974, when UCLA set an NCAA record eighty-eight consecutive-game winning streak. A former NBA Champion and MVP, he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame and selected as one of the NBAÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Fifty Greatest Players ever. He has also had a successful award-winning broadcasting career with ABC, ESPN, NBC, MSNBC, CBS, Turner, and Fox, among others. He currently resides in his hometown of San Diego with his family. Visit him at BillWalton.com.

I used to despise him and all things UCLA back in high school because they appeared destined to Lord over the rest of us (I grew up in ACC mad North Carolina).I had no clue about the extent of the injuries he was playing through when the streak finally ended at 88 games. I had no idea he was playing with a broken back, it would be a huge challenge to walk, much less play at his incredibly high level.I found the book hugely inspirational, and wouldn't hesitate to give a copy to someone going through a difficult physical rehabilitation program after something like a car accident.At nearly 62 now, aches and pains are part of life, but if those pains ever seem to be too much all I have to do is go back to this book, then I realize how lucky I am to have a spine that hasn't collapsed on me.Thank you, Bill Walton, for sharing these tales of you and the numerous war veterans you've helped to regain the ability to overcome physical adversity and once again "make the climb".

In Bill WaltonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s candid memoir, Back from the Dead, he writes about his UCLA coach John Wooden with deep gratitude, respect, and love. He relates that Wooden, in only a sentence or two, distilled ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“the greatest lessons of life,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• lessons that Walton reflects on whenever he is preparing for anything important.Wooden was a great teacher and his most often repeated lesson was this:ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Your best is good enough ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t beat yourself, donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t cheat yourself, donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t shortchange yourself. ThatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the worst kind of defeat youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll ever suffer, and youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll never get over it.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•But

this ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“kind of defeatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• did happen to Walton in his senior year at UCLA. In a team meeting before the first game of the season, Walton interfered with WoodenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s annual good luck ritual. Walton thought that this particular team, undefeated in the previous two seasons, did not need the coachÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ritual because of the playersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ talent and experience. But that season differed from the others: the team lost to North Carolina State in the NCAA championship semi-finals, breaking the string of UCLAÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s seven straight national titles. When departing from the plane after the flight back to Los Angeles, Walton apologized to Wooden. Wooden, however, knowing this was neither the time nor the place for discussion, responded by handing Walton a note, containing another lesson:ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“To Bill Walton,ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the things you learn after you know it all that count.Coach John Wooden.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•More than forty years later that loss to NC State still torments Walton, and he thinks about what might have been, if only he had not interfered with WoodenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s good luck ritual.John Wooden influenced every aspect of Bill WaltonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life, transforming it, even to the point where Walton, years later when his sons were young, would write a Wooden maxim on their lunch bags every day before they left for school.Walton is not alone in having been deeply affected by Coach Wooden. After graduating from college many of those who played for him forged lifelong friendships with him. When Wooden was in his 90ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s, Walton and a dozen or so teammates met with the great coach for breakfast as frequently as three times a week, in a display of mutual love and respect, and in recognition of all the lessons he taught them.

I didn’t know Bill had a stuttering problem. I found it pretty frustrating to think that doctors,owners trainers and coaches wouldn’t believe and forced him into playing when he had so many problems with his feet. Considering all Bill Walton has gone through in his life he still preserved and found a life after basketball. It had a strong message no to give up in life and believe in what you believe.

I enjoyed this book very much. Bill Walton’s story is a back-story of life in the US over the past 50 years as well as a story of courage and determination as he fought to overcome his stuttering to become an announcer and the effects of injuries that were literally almost paralyzing. Sprinkled with stories of John Wooden, the Grateful Dead, Larry Bird, the story is a fast-pace read well worth the time. Bravo, Bill!

This was the very definition of a book I could not put down. I had to save chapters because I did not

want the book to end. The Bill Walton story is a story of human Triumph. His basketball stories about the incredible athletes he played with and being coached by John Wooden made the book as much as learning experience as a good read. And the fact that Mr. Walton is a Deadhead and the book is interspersed with Incredible stories about his exploits with the Grateful Dead and all of the music I grew up with, this book hit a grand slam with me.

Great details on growing up in California, his political activism at UCLA, and his years with both the Blazers and the Celtics. (Bill Walton lived a few blocks from my childhood home while he was playing with the Blazers. His book really captures the mood of the city as he led the Blazers to their lone NBA championship.) The book also gave me another level of appreciation for the debilitating injuries that hampered his career.

It’s a little over the top in places - not that anyone should be surprised by that -but man, what a life, what a story, what a man. I have been a fan of Walton’s since John Wooden spoke at our high school basketball banquet in Juneau, Alaska, in 1972. Reading this makes me think I picked a good guy to follow.

This book was everything promised. So glad that no one ghosted Bill’s book. His voice comes through loud, proud and true. Of course, if you like the Dead, ’Die-lan’, Beatles or other rock references peppered throughout it’s all the more enjoyable. Love hoops, the aforementioned musicians and the history of the era in which I grew up so this book is a kind confluence.

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