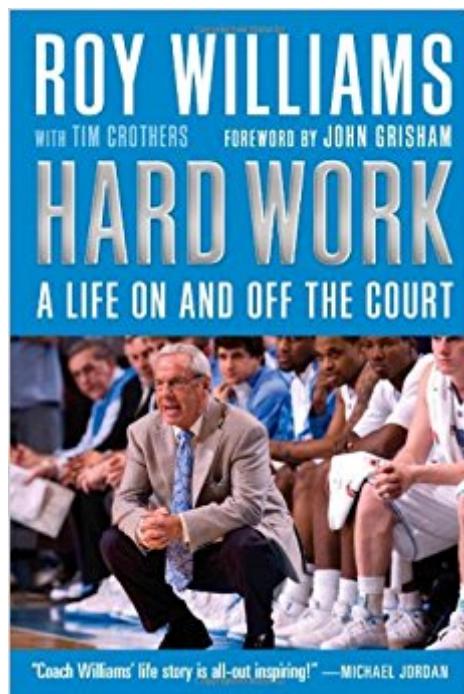


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Hard Work: A Life On And Off The Court



Synopsis

Now in paperback, updated with an afterword and new photos. One of the most respected and successful basketball coaches in the nation, Coach Roy Williams has traveled an unlikely path. In *Hard Work*, he tells the story of his life, from his turbulent childhood through a coaching career with the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. With his new afterword, Williams takes us past the two NCAA championship titles to the subsequent 2010 season, its shake-up losses, the unexpected departure of key players, and on to a new season of coaching some of the most dazzling young players in the country—and a surprising ACC championship. Williams recounts his rough early years; his long tenure as head coach at the University of Kansas; how he recruits, teaches, and motivates his players; how he's shepherded teams through some of the most nail-biting games at both Kansas and UNC; and how he suffered through one of the roughest seasons of his tenure and came out on the other side to be awarded 2011 ACC Coach of the Year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Williams, the men's basketball coach at the University of Kansas (1988–2003) and at the University of North Carolina (2003–present), describes his personal and professional path to a Hall of Fame coaching career and two national championships. Ignored by his abusive, drunken father and raised primarily by a cash-strapped, saintly single mother, Williams paid for his college education at UNC by officiating intramural sports. When Dean Smith, that school's legendary basketball coach, offered Williams a low-paying job on his coaching staff, Williams accepted and sold calendars and delivered videotapes to TV stations to feed his family. As a head coach,

Williams's dedication extends to landing recruits and running organized, thorough practices. And he's done all this while maintaining a cohesive family life. (He's married to his college sweetheart.) Well-intentioned and upbeat, the book treads the familiar ground of glossy, inspirational sports biographies. Williams recalls passionate speeches, great players (i.e., Michael Jordan, James Worthy) and various anecdotes from the coaching life, but never delivers consistent insight on the workings of a successful coach at two legendary sports programs. However, the book is redeemed by Williams's genial (and borderline hokey) tone and the forthright revelations of his tumultuous childhood and early days coaching in high school and college. 16-page photo insert. (Nov.)

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Roy Williams is arguably the most successful active NCAA major-college basketball coach. A few more NCAA championships with North Carolina— he has two—and he inserts himself into the greatest-all-time discussion. His life story is a genuine rags-to-riches saga. Born poor in rural North Carolina and raised by a single mom, he was extraordinarily driven and self-sufficient as a child and young man. He received a basketball scholarship to North Carolina but was in over his head as a player. He worked his way through school refereeing intramural sports—eventually overseeing the entire program—keeping statistics for then head coach Dean Smith, and working summers at Smith's basketball camp. After graduation, he became a high-school coach, married, and was moving along nicely with his career when the offer came to be a part-time assistant for Smith at a fraction of his salary as a teacher and coach. He took the gamble and supported his young family for years with a variety of side jobs, including selling UNC basketball calendars to local merchants. Eventually he became Smith's top assistant and played a significant role in recruiting a skinny kid named Michael Jordan. Later he accepted the top job at Kansas and was very successful there before coming home to North Carolina. Fans view Williams today through the narrow prism of success, but they most likely have little concept of the sacrifice and hard work it took to get there. A thoroughly enjoyable memoir related with humor, compassion, and intelligence. --Wes Lukowsky

Although Roy Williams has had a great career as a coach he has not been very articulate in explaining why his teams failed. The story of his hard life as a young man was interesting and revealing but you never really feel like you find out what happened or what went wrong with some of the great teams he had. I felt like I was reading a book written for a 5th grader but maybe that was the intended audience.

I bought this book for my husband who's a UNC graduate and a big Carolina basketball fan, as well as an admirer of Roy Williams. My husband is not an avid reader, but he devoured this book. If you like UNC basketball and Roy Williams, this is the book for you

Respect. Incredibly inspiring read to learn about the life of this southern gentlemen - rising above all obstacles. Luck = preparation+opportunity. Never before has this equation made more sense to me after reading about the heroic journey of Roy Williams' life.

I've always enjoyed watching Coach Williams' coaching style, first with Kansas and then with UNC. I think he exudes the confidence, humility, knowledge and character that a coach should have in abundance. He has an amazing story in these pages and his self deprecating sense of humor shines through every page. He is not hung up on his accolades, he just enjoys the heck outta the journey.

Great

This is one of my favorite books ever and I am not. Even a UNC or Kansas fan. Roy's journey into coaching is a great story. If you are a basketball fan you will love this book. It is not so much about his philosophy (although there is some of that in the book) as much as it is about how Coach Williams made it.

I bought this book for my boyfriend for Valentine's Day, we are both Tarheel fans, he started reading it and has to make himself put it down to go do other things, I plan to read it when he finishes with it. If you are an avid Carolina Tarheel fan, I would highly recommend this book, you will be amazed at the road that Roy Williams has traveled in his lifetime to get were he is today, no, I have not read it yet but my boyfriend tells me bits and pieces so as not to tell me to much since I plan to read it myself.

This is a great read for any kid who dreams of playing for Coach Williams. He lets you know what he expects, what he looks for in a recruit and the style of play he expects. He's a "tough love" kinda coach. Loves the game and loves his kids. Great read.

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