



Hang Time: Days And Dreams With Michael Jordan

Bob Greene

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Bob Greene shows us a side of Michael Jordan that doesn't make the sports page...the inside.

Journalist and bestselling author Bob Greene stepped into Michael Jordan's world just as Jordan was reaching the apex of his talent and his fame. With Greene, Jordan let down his guard.

In an extraordinary book that transcends sports biography, Greene takes the reader along with Jordan over two seasons with the Chicago Bulls, during glorious championship surges and trying personal moments. With rare insight, Greene reveals the person inside the icon: a man who makes millions but cannot go for a quiet walk around the block without getting mobbed, a man who competes ferociously on the court, but who performs some of his most remarkable and unexpected feats away from the limelight.

Drawn from inside Michael Jordan's daily life, rich with the sound of Jordan's own voice, *Hang Time* is a startlingly candid and intimate story of time spent with a champion, and of the growing friendship between two men.

Hang Time: Days And Dreams With Michael Jordan Details

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From Reader Review Hang Time: Days And Dreams With Michael Jordan for online ebook

Juan Sanchez says

One of the best books about the one and only.... MJ.

Andrew Burin says

A good word to describe this book would be...variegated (You'll know why I chose that word if you read the book.) First off, this book is as much about a year in the life of Bob Greene as it is a biography or in-depth look at MJ. It is not fawning in terms of ooh-ing and aah-ing at Jordan's basketball prowess as Greene is a self-admitted newcomer to the game. He does do a good job of describing the almost supernatural spell Jordan cast on the country.

However, in terms of dissecting the personality and off-the-court lifestyle of MJ, I am afraid to say this book is borderline hagiographical. It begins and ends with descriptions of 23's unpublicized charitable acts and close relationships with several seriously disabled children (which I am not contesting as untrue) but lacks a needed "both sides of the coin" treatment of Michael Jordan in this book, and one that his hard-nosed, fiery, and inexorably competitive nature deserves.

Much of Bob Greene's strategy in analyzing the key themes of this book—Michael Jordan, the nature of professional basketball & the NBA, the life of a journalist, life in general—centers around analyzing things as an outsider or pointing out some of the absurdities that people within the subculture of basketball. Examples include the fact that NBA players shooting a shot will be simultaneously broadcast to hundreds of thousands of televisions worldwide or the idea that a basketball player's career is entirely on film. Unfortunately he uses these analogies ad nauseam to the extent that it sounds like Old Bob is just rambling again on occasion.

There is a certain appeal to reading the thoughts of an outsider who completely immerses himself within another culture, group of people (see Hell's Angels by Hunter Thompson.) However, Greene is does not dish out enough interesting insight in my opinion. He is a journalist with experience working nearly every beat but sports (politics, crime, city government) in Chicago, and when he describes the differences between various types of reporters this is probably some of the most interesting stuff he says.

PROS

- Good look at the rise of the Elvis-like phenomenon that was Jordan in the 90s
- Interesting perspective on sports and the NBA from a non-sports guy and a good writer
- Bob Greene is a good writer

CONS

- The book is not structured well, reads like a lightly edited collection of article snippets and journal entries
- Unclear how close Greene really was to Jordan, or if it is true, as Greene seems to paint it, that Jordan is not truly close to anyone except maybe a few friends
- Repetitive in its insights

Rebecca says

A solid sports biography. I appreciated the depth of the insights and that it didn't try to be encyclopedic. All I know is that I'm going to give famous people their space! And buy myself an MJ t-shirt. I still wanna be like Mike.

Gina Herald says

Jordan's early years in the NBA. Greene got to see the real Michael Jordan and the story is one of friends. It was a great perspective.

Joe Reto says

Jordan's dominance during the 'Jordan Era' is exemplary. Like all of us MJ made mistakes too and he took responsibility for the mistakes. Jordan and I are associates from UNC in the early 80s. Bottom line is: MJ is better than most people have heard. Jordan has been very good to me in a number of ways that are too long to mention here. About the book: READ IT! It gives a perspective of Jordan's life written by Bob Greene who is not a sports writer. Very unique perspective indeed!

Thomas Rush says

When a writer first puts his pen to paper, there are a number of things that are being sought. More than anything else, a writer wrestles with how to take something as complex as reality and reduce it into little, black, written letters printed on paper. The writer wants to do this in such a way that the reader, when it is taken in, will use mental powers of the imagination, filter it, and then represent it within so that the original reality comes back alive. In this book, Bob Greene has done just that. The thing that makes Greene's book most interesting, is that he met Jordan due to circumstances that were not really related to basketball. He himself is not particularly a sports fan. But, what I will put forth is that Bob Greene is an artist, who upon, getting to know Michael Jordan, saw the beautiful artistry within his work. Bob Greene intuited that he was in the midst of something that happens perhaps once every century or so. He wanted to drink in that experience. He says as much in his comparisons of Jordan to Babe Ruth. Jordan had helped Bob Greene by allowing himself to be introduced to a young boy who had been abused. Greene had been writing a series of articles on child abuse, and wanted the boy to have a special experience, so it was arranged for Jordan to meet the youngster. Afterwards, when Bob Greene stayed late and thanked Jordan for what he had done, Jordan's first question to Greene was, "That's all you came back here for? To thank me?" When Greene answered affirmatively, that became the beginning of a blossoming friendship. It's my opinion that the reason Jordan was so impressed with Bob Greene is because Greene's response to him was probably one of the few times in Jordan's professional career when a person approached him wanting to give something, rather than to take. It also helped that what Greene was giving was appreciation. The most powerful thing about this book is that it allows the reader to enter into the very personal world of Michael Jordan at the apex of his career, when things were their craziest and Jordan's Bulls were on the cusp of winning their first

championship. It helps to show another side of Jordan, a side that does not seek publicity for the sick children he had helped, the Jordan who had never said anything to the press about the 3 or 4 young Black boys from the Westside whom he mentored, meeting them in the streets in their neighborhood, late nights after games, just standing on the side of the street, talking, trying to make sure they were staying on the right path. It talks about a young lady, an autograph seeker, who was so entranced by Michael that she was willing to be run over by him in his car. The book allows the reader to enter into the personal bubble of Michael in a way that no other book that I've read, has. I loved David Halberstam's "Playing For Keeps," another book about Jordan, and I have said that the book is one of my favorite sports book. But, this particular book by Bob Greene about Jordan, is my number one favorite book about Jordan, primarily because it is deeply rooted in the personal friendship and relationship between author and subject. Greene gets to the "outside-the-basketball-arena-Jordan in a way that is oh so appealing. You feel as if you are chillin' with Jordan, within his inner circle, a personal friend. This will be near the top, if not at the top, of my all-time favorite sports books for a very long time. For all of those who are Michael Jordan fans, there is another book that can add to your store of information about him. This book complements Bob Greene's. In Thomas D. Rush's "Reality's Pen: Reflections On Family, History & Culture," you will find an enticing view of Michael Jordan on page 230 in a piece called "Showing His Ass." It's a rich story of what Jordan means. The account is special, in part, because Rush shares three common attributes with Jordan, 1) They both are products of North Carolina African-American parents of the same generation, 2) They both grow up in the same generation 3) They both live in Chicago at the time of the story. The Jordan story is just one of the many rich stories within the book, combining with Bob Greene's work to give a very special vision of an extraordinary athlete.

Christopher Galindo says

This will blow the minds of basketball fans and also michael Jordan fans too. when i read this book i never knew what type of person Michael Jordan will be outside this count. This book will give a good experience of what Michael Jordan does before a game or after. Bob Greene is a good person because Michael jordan does not talk to no one about his personal life but to Bob he does. In this book i think that Michael Jordan is a sprightly person he is full of energy in every game. Also between interim in the game bob will go talk to Michael like how he feel or other stuff. Bob will go to most of Michael game and will wait for the advent of Michael. This book made me think that when you are famous your personal life won't be keep a secret. When it comes to the NBA I look up to Michael Jordan because he will teach many us the right things in life and you have to work hard to earn it.

Sincerely,
Christopher Galindo

Graham Caywood says

What an incredible story. I've seen and read most ever book and movie that tells the story of Michael Jordan and the Bulls from the outside, but this was the true insight of Michael Jordan from the inside. Who he was, what he thought, how he felt, before/as he was becoming the jaded person he inevitably became. It tells a

great story about how he felt about his parents, and why he truly decided to pursue baseball. I'm so happy I got to read it.

Lisa says

#95 of 120 books pledged to read in 2017

Rick says

We lived in Chicago during the Jordan era. No choice but to read this... enjoyed it

Nranger7 says

Loved this book. Can't remember why as I read it over 10 yrs ago...

Tajh says

This was a great book and very fun do read. I would highly say u should read tis book.

David says

A very enjoyable sports biography. Bob Greene lets you see the human side of a man who is maybe one of the greatest sports figures of the twentieth century. If your looking for a book about sports only, you may be disappointed. If you are a Jordan fan and want to get to know who he really is, this book is a must read. Reads very well and will prompt you to find other books written by Greene. (originally posted on Amazon.com)

Gabe says

I didn't really like this book, but if you are a Michael Jordan fan this is for you. This book doesn't go into much detail about Michael Jordan, but it shows how great he was. Michael Jordan definitely was the Greatest player of all time. I would recommend this book to people who care about before and after his first championships. If you want to know about his entire career I would not recommend this book.

Ryan says

oddly enough - one of the books that probably shaped me a lot as a person...
