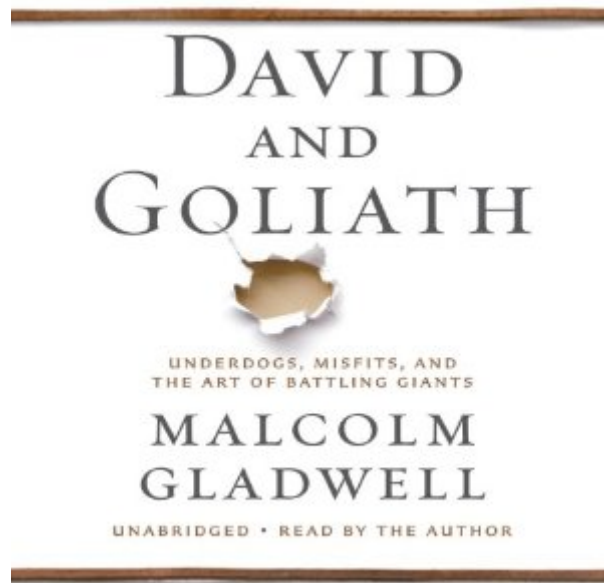


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# David And Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, And The Art Of Battling Giants



## Synopsis

Audie Award Winner, Non-Fiction, 2014 Malcolm Gladwell, the number-one best-selling author of *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, and *What the Dog Saw*, offers his most provocative - and dazzling - book yet. Three thousand years ago, on a battlefield in ancient Palestine, a shepherd boy felled a mighty warrior with nothing more than a stone and a sling, and ever since then the names of David and Goliath have stood for battles between underdogs and giants. David's victory was improbable and miraculous. He shouldn't have won. Or should he have? In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, or cope with a disability, or lose a parent, or attend a mediocre school, or suffer from any number of other apparent setbacks. Gladwell begins with the real story of what happened between the giant and the shepherd boy those many years ago. From there, *David and Goliath* examines Northern Ireland's Troubles, the minds of cancer researchers and civil rights leaders, murder and the high costs of revenge, and the dynamics of successful and unsuccessful classrooms - all to demonstrate how much of what is beautiful and important in the world arises from what looks like suffering and adversity. In the tradition of Gladwell's previous best sellers, *David and Goliath* draws upon history, psychology, and powerful storytelling to reshape the way we think about the world around us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants by Malcolm Gladwell"David

and Goliath" is an interesting yet somewhat disappointing book about what happens when ordinary people confront giants. Best-selling author, Malcolm Gladwell provides many examples that range from the compelling to the dare I say feeble. That being said, the book is stimulating and it's never boring, it just lacked the brilliance that a book like his very own "Outliers" has. This provocative 320-page book is broken out into the following three parts: 1. The Advantages of Disadvantages (and Disadvantages of Advantages), 2. The Theory of Desirable Difficulty, and 3. The Limits of Power.

Positives:

1. Always engaging, provocative and a page turner. Gladwell is a gifted narrator.
2. Interesting subject, never boring. You never know what you are going to get from Gladwell. A great premise and title for a book, "David and Goliath".
3. Gladwell explores two main ideas through stories and keen observations. "What we consider valuable in our world arises out of these kinds of lopsided conflicts, because the act of facing overwhelming odds produces greatness and beauty. And second, that we consistently get these kinds of conflicts wrong."
4. A recurring theme that resonates throughout the book, "There is an important lesson in that for battles with all kinds of giants. The powerful and the strong are not always what they seem."
5. I absolutely loved the story of Vivek Ranadive's basketball team and where Pitino's trademark strategy came from. "The whole Redwood City philosophy was based on a willingness to try harder than anyone else."
6. The provocative discussion on the correlation of class sizes and educational success.

You might read some reviews that hate on this book. They'll say they don't like his pseudo-scientific claims. They'll say he oversimplifies everything. They might even mention some "incidents" where they witnessed a deluge of "random" people who hated on this book... just a day after it's released. But I believe those people have an agenda. An agenda where they decided they were going to hate this book before they even read it. I'll explain. When I buy a Malcolm Gladwell book, I don't expect in-depth analysis of hundreds of research studies. For that, I'll turn to someone like Eliot Aronson, Dan Ariely, or some new blood like Adam Grant. When I buy a Malcolm Gladwell book I expect to read compelling stories that bring a few pieces of key research to life. I also expect to be inspired by these stories. And in that regard, David and Goliath OVER DELIVERS.

#1 I loved the story of the impressionists. I won't ruin the story for you because I think you should buy the book and read it. But the short of it is this: When the impressionists were shunned from the high art society in France, they created their own art show. And their art became more popular. And today, their art is essentially priceless since the art they were showing in their 'offsite' art show totaled more than billion dollars worth of art. What's funny about this story is the connection to Gladwell and today. Gladwell might get shunned by some nitpicking academics, and that's fine. He's not trying to

break into the world of academia. He created his own world, and he's the guy selling millions of books. This doesn't mean I hate academia though. I run a website called Social Triggers, and a podcast called Social Triggers Insider. My goal?

David and Goliath, the Tortoise and the Hare, The Little Engine that Could... these are the stories we grew up with that spoke to us about overcoming the odds. As if somehow learning as a child that overcoming the odds was not only possible it was a good thing. When you're a kid with nothing to lose you might dream big. This only goes to show what little people can do. to quote from the Musical Les Miserables. As we grew older we understood more deeply just how impossible overcoming the odds can be. To truly overcome the odds the reality of the Kobayashi Maru Scenario sets in. From Star Trek the Kobayashi Maru Scenario is the no-win scenario that cadets going through Starfleet Academy must face. Only one cadet ever won the Kobayashi Maru Scenario. That would be Captain James T. Kirk. How did he win? He cheated. OK, for the most part, these David and Goliath tales of youth are fictional. Enter Malcolm Gladwell and his forth is a series of winning titles starting with The Tipping Point, Blink, and then Outliers. Now Mr. Gladwell brings us David and Goliath -- Underdogs, Misfits, and the art of Battling Giants. He's not coining a new phrase as he did with his other books. We all know the story of David and Goliath and we all know it about doing something that ought not be possible. Except instead of fiction, Mr. Gladwell brings us a series of real life accounts of underdogs prevailing against the mountain of odds stacked against them. These are real life David and Goliath stories as only Mr. Gladwell can tell them... deep, compelling, and poignant...his trademark. How did these underdogs prevail? In some sense they cheated. As Capt Kirk would say, He changed the rules.

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