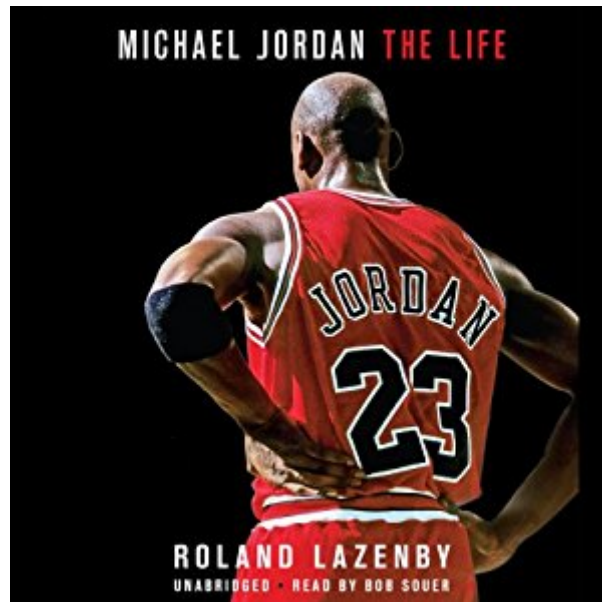


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# Michael Jordan: The Life



## Synopsis

The definitive biography of the most legendary basketball player of all time. When most people think of Michael Jordan, they think of the beautiful shots, his body totally in sync with the ball, hitting nothing but net. He is responsible for incredible moments so ingrained in basketball history that they have their own names: The Shrug, The Shot, The Flu Game. But for all his greatness, there's also a dark side to Jordan: A ruthless competitor, a gambler. There's never been a biography that balanced these personas-until now. Drawing on personal relationships with Jordan's coaches; countless interviews with friends, teammates, family members, and Jordan himself; and a career in the trenches covering Jordan in college and the pros, Roland Lazenby provides the first truly definitive study of Jordan: The player, the icon, and the man.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 21 hours and 8 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 6, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00JFEX93C

Best Sellers Rank: #6 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #9 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #24 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Sports & Recreation

## Customer Reviews

Michael Jordan: The Life is an average biographical work of a sports icon whose career was larger than the game of basketball, and any other sports figure in the history of sports. Roland Lazenby's account of our beloved MJ fails to deliver anything new or exciting, and the book comes off as just another familiar sports column. Sure, he covers much of MJ's basketball career, but he clearly steers past major obstacles-positive and negative-in MJ's life, with only scant details, i.e., Operation Push's Nike Boycot, and his refusal to endorse African American Harvey Gantt in the North Carolina Senate race against Jesse Helms because "Republicans buy shoes too." How did these decisions impact MJ, family and friends, African-American teammates, and the African-American

community? MJ's family life is only remotely mentioned, many marital infidelities are oddly omitted, implying that his affairs surfaced toward the end and after his basketball career. How did all this impact his wife and family? Also, Lazenby writes that MJ was a proud father, but fails to give any documentation to his Airness's fatherhood experiences; how his legend impacted his boy's (Marcus and Jeffrey) basketball careers, and how his failures affected all his children's (3 total, at the time) childhood experiences. Lastly, the book ends rather abruptly, leaving almost a blank concerning future plans of MJ's Charlotte Hornets, his children's successes-life journey, and his new life with current wife Yvette Prieto. It would have been interesting story concerning MJ and Yvette Prieto's first meeting, and how she ultimately won MJ's heart. And what of MJ's estranged relationship with his mother and siblings? All of these questions are strangely ignored as the book comes to a close.

"The rarest talent is like a comet streaking briefly across the sky, captured only by the trailing flash of its brilliance." In his resplendent biography of Michael Jordan, veteran sportswriter Roland Lazenby carefully chronicles the Hall of Famer's journey from his humble beginnings in Teachey, North Carolina, to his startling transformation to "His Airness." "Personality-wise, he's a study," said former Chicago Bulls assistant coach Tex Winter of the six-time NBA champion. Lazenby offers nuanced insights into the basketball phenom's character through soulful and, at times, wistful family narratives. To understand the full force of MJ's wondrous life, Lazenby opens with the poignant story of Dawson Jordan. Born at the turn of the 20th century in a shotgun shack on the banks of North Carolina's Coastal plain, Michael's great-grandfather was a looming authority figure who possessed immense physical strength. In his youth, Dawson engaged in dangerous forestry, taking down trees, then bundling and floating the logs downriver to Wilmington's shipyards. In his lifetime, he was a lumber mill worker, logger, sharecropper, moonshiner, hunt club cook and determined survivor. Lazenby portrays James and Deloris Jordan as thoroughly devoted parents, preparing their five children to become citizens of the world. "The greatest impact of their parenting came in the constant shaping of the children's attitudes," Lazenby writes, "they preached a constant refrain: Work hard. Achieve. Set goals. Think ahead. Don't be denied. Be considerate. Don't dwell on race." Jordan's ability to listen was among his most impressive attributes, and his relationship with his mother made him receptive to coaching.

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