



Life Is Not an Accident: A Memoir of Reinvention

By Jay Williams

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Life Is Not an Accident: A Memoir of Reinvention By Jay Williams

***New York Times* Bestseller**

This big-hearted memoir by the most promising professional basketball player of his generation details his rise to NBA stardom, the terrible accident that ended his career and plunged him into a life-altering depression, and how he ultimately found his way out of the darkness.

Ten years ago, Jay Williams was at the beginning of a brilliant professional basketball career. The Chicago Bulls' top draft pick—and the second pick of the entire draft—he had the great Michael Jordan's locker. Then he ran his high-performance motorcycle head-on into a light pole, severely damaging himself and ending his career.

In this intense, hard-hitting, and deeply profound memoir, Williams talks about the accident that transformed him. Sometimes, the memories are so fresh, he feels like he'll never escape the past. Most days, he finds a quiet peace as a commentator on ESPN and as an entrepreneur who can only look back in astonishment at his younger self—a kid who had it all, thought he was invincible, and lost everything . . . only to gain new wisdom.

Williams also shares behind the scenes details of life as an All-American. He tells it straight about the scandalous recruiting process and his decision to return to Duke and Coach K—a man who taught him about accountability—to finish his education. He also speaks out about corruption—among coaches, administrators, players, and alumni—and about his time in the NBA, introducing us to a dark underworld culture in the pros: the gambling, drugs, and sex in every city, with players on every team.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A lot of athletes have been to the mountaintop and back to the bottom in the course of their careers, and their stories end there. But not Jay’s. He was determined to build a life beyond basketball no matter how many hard picks he’d have to fight through.” (Charles Barkley, TNT baseball analyst and NBA legend)

“From a freakish motorcycle accident that derailed his destiny to overcoming the residue from that left a severe mental and emotional stain, Jay’s story is about strength, resilience, and redemption. *Life Is Not an Accident* is a surprisingly honest and revealing account that will inspire and resonate with all.” (Grant Hill, CBS basketball analyst and former NBA All-Pro)

“Jay Williams has led a fascinating life, much of it in the public eye. But it is the very private side of the man—through his breathtaking highs and startling lows—that makes this gutsy, intimate, unflinchingly honest memoir impossible to put down.” (Mike Greenberg, ESPN's *Mike & Mike*)

“An amazingly courageous and inspirational book.” (Tony Romo, Dallas Cowboys Quarterback)

From the Back Cover

As a kid, Jay Williams pretended he was making the game-winning shot while playing basketball in his backyard. He kept right on making shots until he became an NCAA champion and two-time national player of the year at Duke, and the second overall NBA draft pick in 2002.

But after just one season with the Chicago Bulls, Williams’s basketball playing career ended after a horrific motorcycle accident. In an instant, the man with as fast a first step as any point guard in the history of basketball could no longer do anything for himself, including walk.

In *Life Is Not an Accident*, Jay Williams shares his story of being a young man trying to wrest control of his life from his overinvolved parents, from the pleasures and perils of fame and money, and from the near-fatal mistake that threatened to define him. After a decade spent recovering from his injuries, Williams recounts with a rare honesty his hard-fought path to college basketball stardom and the painful lessons he’s learned.

Now in his thirties, Jay Williams is convinced that the crash that almost killed him at twenty-one was no accident, but a tragedy that taught him how to live.

About the Author

Jay Williams is a former professional basketball player and current ESPN analyst. While at Duke, he won the Naismith College Player of the Year Award, was named the AP Player of the Year in 2002, and was a unanimous first-team All-American. He is a motivational speaker and a committed member of a number of charities.

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Bernard Taylor:

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