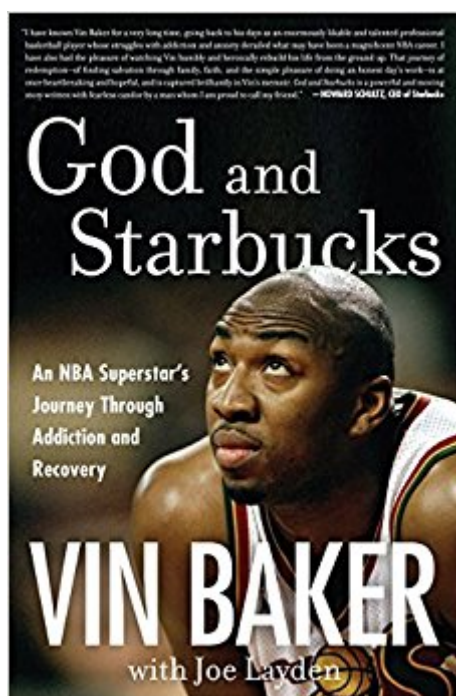


The book was found

God And Starbucks: An NBA Superstar's Journey Through Addiction And Recovery



Synopsis

An astonishing memoir of redemption—the moving story of a former top NBA player who miraculously rebounded from a monumental fall thanks to hard work and his deep, transformative faith. Sixteen years ago, Vin Baker was an NBA All-Star, an Olympic Gold medalist, and a multimillionaire. While he excelled on the court, Vin harbored a dark secret: a dependency on drugs and alcohol that began after the clean-cut preacher's son turned pro. Eventually becoming a full-blown yet functional alcoholic, Vin convinced himself he played better under the influence—until his addiction cost him his basketball career, his fortune, and his health. But Vin's story isn't a tragic fall from grace. It is a joyous tale of salvation. For Vin, hitting rock bottom was a difficult yet transformative experience that led him to renew his relationship with God and embrace life in a rich and fulfilling new way. Today the manager of a Starbucks and a youth minister, Vin has found more security and happiness in his ordinary working life than in all his years in the glamorous world of professional basketball. God and Starbucks is a wise and unflinching look at the real dangers of addiction and the importance of taking charge of your life with meaning and purpose. It's a powerful memoir about reaching the top and beginning again from the bottom—an inspiring personal tale of humility and grace that reminds us what is truly important in our lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“I have known Vin Baker for a very long time, going back to his days as an enormously likable and talented professional basketball player whose struggles with addiction and anxiety

derailed what may have been a magnificent NBA career. I have also had the pleasure of watching Vin humbly and heroically rebuild his life from the ground up. That journey of redemption—of finding salvation through family, faith, and the simple pleasure of doing an honest day's work—is at once heartbreaking and hopeful, and is captured brilliantly in Vin's memoir. *God and Starbucks* is a powerful and moving story written with fearless candor by a man whom I am proud to call my friend. (Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks)

“Vin Baker was an ascendant NBA talent in the early 1990s, a dependable double-double machine who also possessed that ineffable characteristic called likability. Then, suddenly, he lost it all to addiction. Vin's battle back, skillfully told, is not just a sports story—it's one of the best tales of redemption you'll ever read. (Jack McCallum, author of the New York Times bestseller *Dream Team*)

“Many think famous athletes have it all, as if their talent makes them exempt from pain and suffering. Vin Baker knows different, as he details in *God and Starbucks*, a brilliant memoir of redemption. Baker's personal story is powerful and raw—an amazingly relevant book for a time when so many people struggle with addiction and anxiety. I admire this book tremendously. (D. Watkins, author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Cook Up* and *The Beast Side*)

“Vin Baker's skills and abilities defined a generation of big men. While he was fighting incredible basketball players on the court, privately he was struggling with a far greater opponent in addiction. His honest and moving story will inspire change! (Adonal Foyle, author of *Winning the Money Game*)

“A wonderful book about God's power to give do-overs while illuminating what is possible in our hour of darkness. Vin Baker's engrossing story is a towering example of how salvation is found through faith and hard work. (Quinton Dixie, author of *This Far by Faith*)

Vin Baker, an NBA all-star, Olympic gold medalist, and clean-cut preacher's son, harbored a dark secret: a dependence on drugs and alcohol that began shortly after he turned pro. Eventually becoming a full-blown yet functional alcoholic, Vin convinced himself that he played better under the influence—until his addiction cost him his basketball career, his fortune, and his health. But Vin's story isn't a tragic fall from grace. It is an enthralling testimony of salvation. For Vin, hitting rock bottom was a difficult yet transformative experience that led him to renew his relationship with God and to embrace life. Howard Schultz of Starbucks and Calvin Butts of Abyssinian Baptist Church offered Vin a helping hand and led him to find more security and happiness in his ordinary working life than he did in all of his years in the glamorous world of professional basketball. *God and Starbucks* is a wise, unflinching look at addiction and at

the necessity of taking charge and claiming one's blessings. It is a powerful memoir about reaching the top and beginning again from the bottom – an inspiring personal tale of humility and grace that reminds us of what is truly important. Â

I found this book to be interesting, fascinating and I could not put the book down! Thanks Vin Baker for allowing your fans to come along on your journey and gain a understanding on how easy it is to have it all and the next minute you are left with nothing. Anyone who can swallow their pride and humble themselves to the world, is a very courageous person!! I recommend this book to anyone who thinks that money could be the answer to all your problems!! Excellent read.

I bought the book after hearing his interviews with Dan Lebatard! He's a great dude and I can't wait to read it. Go Vin Baker and The Dan Lebatard Show!

Very inspiring and spiritual book of a man who conquered addiction and turned his life around. Goes to prove that it's never too late for anyone.

Inspiring story! Another example of how it's never too late to change and live a meaningful life. I have great admiration for Vin.

The natural knee jerk way to start this review would be to start off saying it's the autobiography of former NBA All-Star Vin Baker. After all that's what it states Ad Nauseam throughout this book. I think it's more apt to start off saying it's the story of an alcoholic drug addict gambling addicted cheating on women cheating on multiple NBA teams that in good faith paid him over one-hundred-million-dollars during his career. The deceit that Baker pulled off on his gigantic eighty-six-million-dollar contract was nauseating and disgusting to anyone whoever believed in fair play and worked hard for just an average living. To say the predominate portions of this book regarding Vin Baker's full-blown-out-of-believable-control addictions and his constant lying to everyone that meant anything to him and to anyone who was counting on him whether as an employee or a teammate will make the average human being let alone an NBA fan violently ill is an understatement.

Also unfortunately this is not the first nor unfortunately last book with (I will not describe this as a heartbreaking story because heartbreaking is when someone like Lou Gehrig gets ALS or Ernie Davis gets Leukemia and dies) an athlete being blessed by the Lord with unbelievable physical talents and strictly through their own weak decisions flush it all down the drain with absolutely no regard for the people that pay them and depend on them! The next time you take your hard earned money and buy an overpriced NBA ticket let alone if you multiply that cost by 3 or 4 times because you bring your family with you I am sure you are hoping to see dedicated athletes playing at their best. (By the way you also have to hope that Popovich or Kerr haven't picked that game that you just shelled out half your weekly salary for to rest these overpaid prima donnas!) Would you have spent that money if you knew at least one of those so called All-Stars had started that day in bed drinking an entire bottle of champagne before he even got out of bed that morning if he smoked a couple of joints after that then decided between a shot or two of Hennessy or some 151 Rum and then hidden in his water bottle in his locker is more 151 Rum which he would drink before AND during games. Yes during games he would literally leave the bench and go to his locker. Before you think this is only Vin Baker this is not a problem in the NBA well the author states that each NBA team probably has five or six heavy weed users. Now I will admit that any human being with an ounce of empathy (like me) will immediately be touched or should I say sad-shocked-disgusted in the first few pages as Baker describes hitting rock bottom but then the next couple of hundred pages is spent telling of his drunken drugged whoring gambling escapades and I am sorry but most of it comes across as bragging of how much debauchery he got away with. (And once again I must add that his story is just one of many I have read). The fact that at the end of the book (believe me this is not a spoiler it basically says it on the inside cover and if he isn't currently clean and sober how could he write the

book. I guess based on his past he could) he's been clean and after numerous extremely generous helping hands by Howard Schultz CEO of Starbucks and former owner of the Seattle Supersonics one of the teams Baker "stole" millions from Vin has worked in Starbucks and studied in the seminary and has gotten opportunities within and around the NBA. As a fan I find it humorous-ridiculous-sickening-and-amazing that the NBA the NFL and baseball keep hiring these guys that destroyed themselves and everyone around them with addiction to come and speak to new players and yet the cycle keeps continuing with only one difference the new addicts to be are paid more money up front than the prior addicts who are now proselytizing to the new "choir". (By the way these reformed speaker/counselors certainly don't seem to be successful they just seem to be window-dressing to fool the public that the league is really straightening things out) Despite the absolute statements of facts listed above this is still a good book to read if you want to verify the sickness that is systemic in pro sports today and has been for quite a while. As humbled as Baker tries to be at the beginning and at the end it sure comes across everywhere else like he's bragging about the depravity he was able to pull over on his employees.

"AND THE FANS WHO INEVITABLY ARE THE ONES TO PAY ALL THESE SALARIES!

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