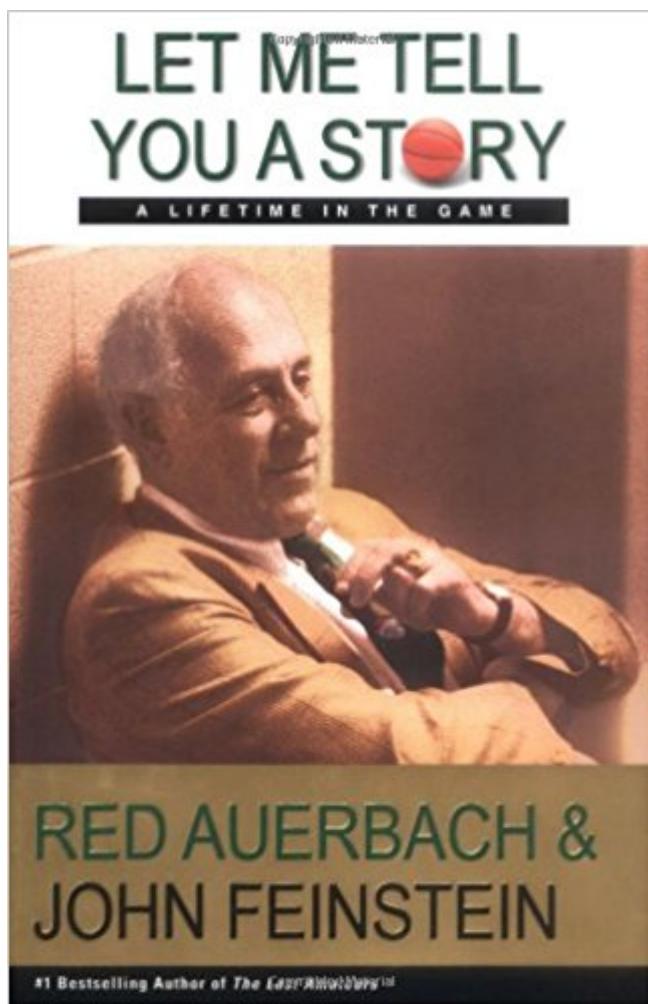


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# Let Me Tell You A Story: A Lifetime In The Game



## Synopsis

Red Auerbach is the architect and mastermind behind one of the most dominant franchises in professional sports history, the Boston Celtics. The cigar-chomping Auerbach wasn't a passive bench coach, but an aggressive, demanding and often volatile mentor who coached 11 Hall of Famers and led Boston to 10 Eastern Division titles in 16 years. Auerbach's passionate style reaped large rewards. From 1959-1966, the Celtics won 8 straight NBA championships, a streak unmatched in sports history. His career coaching record currently ranks fifth all-time in NBA history. Auerbach led Boston to 99 playoff victories, third all-time behind Phil Jackson and Pat Riley. He showcased his coaching prowess in 11 straight All-Star games, was named NBA Coach of the Year in 1965 and, in 1970, was selected as the NBA's 25th Anniversary All-Time Team coach. Auerbach began his coaching career in 1946 in the BAA with the Washington Capitals and led them to the 1947 and 1949 division titles. In 1950, Auerbach became head coach of the Boston Celtics. After coaching, Auerbach joined the Celtics front office full-time and in 1980 was named NBA Executive of the Year.

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## Customer Reviews

Every Tuesday for four years, Feinstein, the author of two of the bestselling sports books of all time, *A Good Walk Spoiled* and *A Season on the Brink*, played story collector, gathering tales for this, his 16th offering. During those four years, Feinstein lived for the Monday-night phone call that delivered five words to him every week: "Tuesday. Eleven o'clock. China Doll." Those words invited him to the most exclusive lunch club in sports, led by legendary Boston Celtics coach Auerbach and

frequented by coaches, secret service agents, close friends and Auerbach relatives, as well as by anyone in D.C. lucky enough to receive an invitation. Between bites of Mu-Shu pork and chicken-fried rice, Auerbach and his crew chewed on subjects from politics to women's basketball to today's coaches, and Feinstein jotted it all down. The Feinstein-Auerbach collaboration brings together two of the most sought-after storytellers in sports and gives readers their own invitation into the China Doll club. In more than 50 years with the green and gold, Auerbach collected countless friends, admirers and stories. Now 86, he's forgotten nothing and has an opinion on everything. "I ever tell you how I got to know Joe Dimaggio?" begins chapter three. "I ever tell you how I got thrown out of the all-star game in 1967? About the time I met Clinton and Gore?" These great storytellers make this book so effortless to read that you can almost hear Red reciting each line and smell him lighting up that famous cigar. Tuesday. Eleven o'clock. Don't be late. And never, under any circumstances, offer to pick up the check. 8 pages of b&w photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

After meeting Red Auerbach, the legendary Boston Celtic coach and de facto father of the modern NBA, a few years ago, Feinstein wangled an invitation to a regular Tuesday lunch in Washington, D.C., where Auerbach and various of his cronies trade stories. Feinstein became a regular, which led to this anecdotal autobiography of a genuine sports icon. Auerbach won nine NBA titles as the Celtics' coach, and he added another seven as the team's general manager. Naturally, he has lots of opinions about the game of basketball, as it's played today and as it was played in his prime. He also has plenty to say about both Bill Russell, the key player on all of his championship teams, and Wilt Chamberlain, Russell's nemesis, and he discusses his Depression-era youth and early years as an itinerant coach. Many of Red's stories are familiar, but hearing the first-person versions is a treat. Auerbach's life and memories form the plot of Feinstein's book, but a strong subtext is the friendship among the dozen or so regulars who make it to the restaurant each week. In fact, the book is as much about the lunches as it is about Auerbach. We watch as a group of older men pass their wisdom on to those they have come to view as worthy successors. A fascinating life story, a terrific basketball book, and a compelling look at generations communicating around a modern-day campfire. Wes LukowskyCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Although I live in Ohio, I grew up as a fan of Bill Russell, Red Auerbach and the Boston Celtics. As I have gotten older and learned more about those two men in particular, my admiration has only

deepened. This book, is not a biography, but a look at Auerbach in a way that a true biography might not be able to do. It is almost like being there as he interacts with a select group of people and regales them with story after story about many of the names (familiar and unfamiliar) that he encountered during his career. It is a thoroughly readable, enjoyable book for any fan of basketball history. He truly was a man who did not judge by ethnicity; instead, he looked at character. As he said in the book, you win by having good players who are also good people. A close look at the Celtic dynasty of the 50s and 60s is proof that it works. I highly recommend this book. I just wish that it was longer and that it contained more stories about Russell and Red's relationship with him over the years.

I am not a big fan of basketball, but I do remember Red Auerbach when he coached the Boston Celtics. Red and many of his friends have weekly Tuesday get-togethers at the China Doll Restaurant in Washington, D.C. where they swap stories with one another. Red gives his opinions on coaches today who he feels overcoach their team and often play to the cameras and fans by jumping up and down and screaming with their team up by 20 or 30 points with a minute or two in the game. Red's rule for winning is simple: Get good players who are good people and you will have a winning team. People say Red was a great coach because he had great players. But, the author adds, "Who do you think chose the players?" Red always has had a good relationship with Bobby Knight. Knight said, "He (Red) was nice to me for no reason years ago and he never stopped." A pet peeve of his is P.A. announcers who mumble the names of the visiting players during introductions and then boost up the P.A. system when the home team is introduced "as if they just saved the planet." Red finally gave up coaching at the age of forty eight due to exhaustion. Dealing with having to scout and being a general manager and keeping the team's talent pool coming had worn him out. Reading this book is a learning experience for coaches on all levels, and I am proof you don't have to be a basketball fan to enjoy the book.

I first came across this book in a used book store. As a basketball junkie I bought it immediately and really enjoyed it. I have discussed it with several other Bball Junkies who - like me - both laughed and cried while reading it. There are lots and lots of behind the scenes stories at every level of the game that confirmed for me that BASKETBALL is the only sport worth really caring about. One of my favorites was the Celtics drafting a good college player who had been seriously injured in an accident; and then flying him from the Midwest to Boston to be introduced as a team member, with a complete uniform, locker and other team status markings. Other than Bball, the stories from and

about the Tuesday 11:00 AM Chinese Food luncheons are worth twice whatever you have to pay for the book (not a Kindle). Following directly from the Tuesday lunches, the trip to the White House is another magnificent story. The reason for me being able to write this review is because I ordered another copy of the book through to give as a present to a distant friend. The opportunity to spread the word to so many other BJ's is a great pleasure and I hope others decide to buy it. I know it is not Feinstein's most famous book, but his skills are just as obvious here as in anything else he has published.

Really interesting read. I've been a lifelong Celtics fan but had no idea just how much of an impact Red had on the modern game and the league. Truly changed both and made them what they are today. I highly recommend this book.

great book

John Feinstein's books have been more miss than hit this decade, which is why it's a pleasure to go back and read one of his gems. This time his subject is Red Auerbach, the long time coach/GM of the Boston Celtics, and the man who has more championship rings than anyone in the history of the game. The book is basically a collection of Red's favorite Celtics anecdotes, which he often told over lunch to a select group of friends at his favorite Chinese restaurant The China Doll in Washington D.C. (now closed) The book is written in a breezy, conversational style, which will make you feel as though you are seated next to Red at the table as he holds court. Let Me Tell You A Story is a must-read, and will be of specific interest to Celtics fans, but should have something to offer general basketball fans as well. However, if you are a fan of the Lakers, Knicks, or Bulls, you might not like what Red has to say about your team ;)

Of all the Sports that Feinstein covers I think he covers Basketball Best. This is a superb tale of the Legendary Boston Celtic's LEADER. I was told that Red grew up in the DC area going to a Segregated Roosevelt High School. I wondered how someone coming from a Segregated Environment could draft one of the first 3 African Americans in the Now NBA. Also how he could select the first African American Coach. Well he grew up in Brooklyn in a multi-cultural Neighborhood. Fascinating stories about the Carnegie Deli area. He went to college in DC (GW) (Which I knew), and then later taught at Roosevelt (Which may have been where the confusion started.) I think it helped that I have been in the Chinatown Restaurants that are the setting for a lot

of the stories, This an absolutely Great Read, and one of Feinstein's best.

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