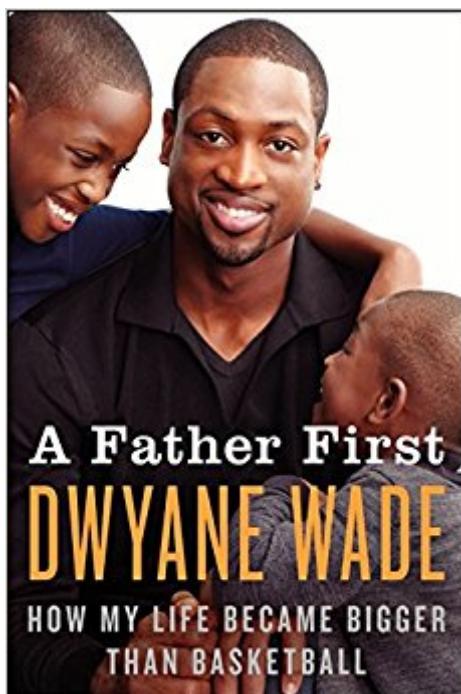


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# A Father First: How My Life Became Bigger Than Basketball



## Synopsis

Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat is one of the superstars of the NBA— and a Gold Medal winner at the Beijing Olympics—but he’s A Father First. In this moving and triumphant memoir, Wade shares his inspiring thoughts about fathers and sons, writing poignantly about the gratifying responsibilities of being a single dad to his two sons, Zaire and Zion, while recounting his own growing up years and his memorable rise to the top echelon of professional basketball.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dwyane Wade, the eight-time All-Star and two-time NBA champion for the Miami Heat and winner of a gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, has miraculously defied the odds throughout his incredible career. But off the court Dwyane has sought his most cherished goal: being a good dad to his sons, Zaire and Zion. Dwyane begins his story in March 2011 with the news that after a long, bitter custody battle, he has been awarded sole custody of his sons. A Father First chronicles the lessons Dwyane has learned as a single dad as well as past events that shaped his dreams, prayers, and promises. Though divorced, Dwyane’s parents showed him that the unconditional love between parents and children is a powerful guiding force. A revealing, personal story of one of America’s top athletes, A Father First is also a call to action—from a man who had to fight to be in his children’s lives—that will show mothers and fathers how to step up and be parents themselves.

Dwyane Wade is a guard for the Miami Heat whose Wade's World Foundation has contributed millions of dollars to benefit children and families across America. President Obama recently appointed him to help lead a program geared toward encouraging fathers to become more involved in their children's lives. He lives in Miami, Florida.

Just about every true basketball fan knows who Dwyane Wade is... former All-American at Marquette University... All-Star guard and two-time World Champion with the Miami Heat... former NBA scoring champion... innumerable team records... and many accomplishments that have only been matched or exceeded by such legends as Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain. Flying... soaring... posterizing dunks and blocks. All true... but after reading this book you'll find that he's rightfully just... if not more proud... of what he has accomplished off the court... as a son... a grandson... and with sooo much pride... what he's become as a Father. I pride myself in giving true accurate reviews... so when I tell you as a lifetime basketball player and crazed fan... this is not your normal basketball biography... you can take that to the bank. If all you're looking for is basketball stats... basketball stories... and the now standard glamorous "rich and famous" lifestyle of the over abundance of pro ballplayers... many not deserved at all... you will come away disappointed... if that's why you're considering buying this book. But... if you want to take an emotional trip through the life of a young boy growing up in a rough neighborhood... who despite his parents divorcing... they made sure that their children always realized how much the other parent loved them... this is your book. Even when one parent... Dwyane's Mom was not only an alcoholic drug addict and involved in the sale of drugs... but she was jailed many, many, times. And I'm talking about "hard-time"! One time Dwyane's Mom... Jolinda Morris Wade went on the lam while on parole... for FOUR YEARS NINE MONTHS, AND SIX DAYS. What an utterly emotional situation when Jolinda turned herself in. Dwyane was blessed with a Grandmother that could have come out of central casting for the wise... lovable... fearless... Grandma... that held court on the balcony of her apartment in a bad side of town... with little Dwyane learning about life... responsibility... and how to walk tall even when everything around you is going to hell. Dwyane was also blessed with a tough as nails Father who taught/forced Dwyane how to play basketball hard and with dedication. The All-World-Wade that admiring fans like myself are used to seeing slashing... falling... diving... tumbling... at times bent... but never emotionally broken... was created by Dwyane Sr. in their driveway and in parks. Dwayne's sister Tragil should have her picture next to the word sacrifice in the illustrated dictionary. She was... and is... an absolute angel that Dwyane's been blessed with in

his life. Along with the depiction of Dwyane's lifelong desire to be a great Dad... is the all encompassing nasty battle with his ex-wife for not only the ability to spend time with his children... but due to the reprehensible behavior by his soon to be ex-wife in respect to Dwayne's and their children's rights to be part of each other's lives... the original custody battle for equal time... spirals so badly out of control the court sees fit to give Dwyane full custody of his beloved children. As I mentioned earlier in my review... that this is not your normal basketball star's biography... in my final summary of this book I feel I owe it to potential readers to get back to that subject. As great as the familial side of this story is... it doesn't do justice to certain basketball areas that all true fans desire and deserve... and that's much more inside info on the time served by "FLASH" with "SHAQ" the larger than life teammate that helped Dwyane and the Heat to their first NBA championship... and there could have been much more inside info on Lebron James and Chris Bosh. Don't get me wrong... Dwyane treated all of them with the utmost gentleman's respect... but surely he could have opened the kimono a little more. All in all... this is a wonderful story by a great basketball player... who is also a great Father... Son... and Grandson.

I live in Ft. Lauderdale so am a huge Miami Heat fan. This is a book about DWades life not much about the team. He grew up in a tough neighborhood without much help from his parents. His sister was the one that really raised him. It has been quite awhile since I read this so their names escape me. His love for his children is very evident and he is an amazing father. His Mother has cleaned up herself and is now a good woman. I recommend anyone that is a Dwayne Wade fan read this book and you will see all the adversity he went through to become one of the best basketball players of this era. It was fascinating how he managed to help his team become the NBA champions while going through a nasty highly published divorce

It seems D.Wade "tells it like it was" when he details growing up in Chicago in a family that was split because. among other things, his mother's addiction to drugs. Both parents were absent from the home for most of his youth. He had a praying grandmother and an older sister who loved him dearly and tried to shield him from the pitfalls of the neighborhood. It was while his mom was incarcerated that Dwyane lived with his dad and his stepmother. He was of average height during his early teens, but grew 4 inches over one summer, making him 6' 2". He eventually added another two inches. It was when Wade went to live with his father that his interest in basketball accelerated. He was in the company of his step brothers which included Demetrius McDaniel, a standout basketball player at Richards High School; Demetrius was two years older than Wade. In Demetrius' senior year at

Richards, the team was 28-2. The coach at Richards lamented to Dwyane Wade, Sr that he didn't know what he would do now that Demetrius was graduating. Dwyane, Sr. replied that he should not worry, Dwyane was a good basketball player also. He married his high school sweetheart and became a father when he was barely out of the teens. He tried to keep the marriage together, even to the extent of having another child. This didn't fix the marriage. He is kind to the boys' mother in the book, but after the divorce, she was intent upon denying him access to the boys. The story of how he struggled to see the boys and how he was eventually awarded sole custody is interesting. A great basketball story! He gives a lot of credit to his high school coaches who helped him navigate the scholarship application process and to the coach at Marquette who accepted him although his ACT scores were not high enough. He was "red-shirted" the first year. Coach Crean told him he was part of the team he just wouldn't play in the games or travel. The coach nudged Wade into a leadership role. Since he was not playing he would watch the other players and suggest ways to improve their play. He was required to earn a 2.5 GPA to play his sophomore year. He earned 2.7 and by 3rd testing period he had a 3.0 and it continued to climb. He helped lead the team to the Final Four in 2003. I loved this book. Wade is a professional athlete worthy of admiration. He says he doesn't drink alcohol, smoke or use drugs. He is dedicated to raising these two boys; he has even provided a home for one of his nephews.

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