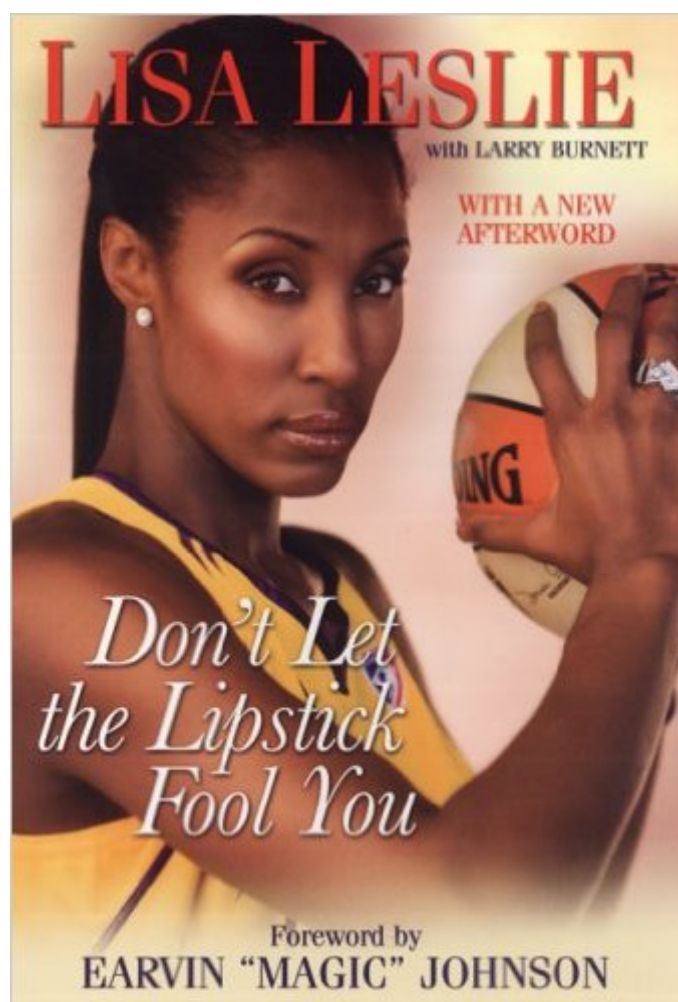


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# Don't Let The Lipstick Fool You



## Synopsis

A three-time Olympic gold medalist, three-time MVP of the WNBA, and the first woman ever to dunk in a professional basketball game, Lisa Leslie is considered one of the greatest players in the history of women's basketball. Now in her own words, she points the spotlight onto her remarkable life off the court, where being a confident champion was not always simple. As a child growing up in South Central Los Angeles, Lisa was timid, awkward, and over six feet tall in the sixth grade. Opponents challenged her, and she struggled to overcome self-imposed fears and limitations. But as her interest in basketball grew, she toughened both her game and her resolve. She also learned she could retain her femininity and throw a few elbows too. Still there was a nagging notion that girls--even tall girls and especially pretty ones - could not play well. At the same time, Lisa's home life, though loving, was unstable. Lisa never knew her father. Her mother worked as a traveling truck-driver to support the family, leaving Lisa to shuffle between relatives. Lisa's beloved older sister seemed only to torment her, harbor hidden jealousies, and would later go on to steal her identity and almost ruin her finances. And as a young woman, it would take two broken engagements before Lisa finally found the love of her life. Yet overcoming tremendous doubts are what paved the way to Lisa's greatest achievements--scoring 101 points in the first half of a high school basketball game; signing with Wilhelmina Models and appearing in Vogue magazine; and of course traveling the world and winning championship after championship...after championship. Today, Lisa is a beautiful, poised, assertive, six-foot-five-inch basketball powerhouse. Her elegance and charm have made her a favorite with fans, the fashion world, and even Hollywood. With hard-won candor and self-assurance, Lisa Leslie shares her empowering story about finding grace under pressure, balancing a life of contradiction without losing yourself, and exceeding expectations--including your own--by playing like a girl.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a long-time WNBA and NCAAW hoops fan, I was eager to read Lisa Leslie's memoir. I was not disappointed. She doesn't spare herself as she reports on her challenges growing up in a single-parent household. She was much more at home on the basketball court. It's shocking to think she might have played for Tennessee if she hadn't had a horrendous racially charged experience in Shelbyville, TN, just before her campus visit. I hadn't followed the coaching changes at USC and the Sparks, but Leslie shows how the team responded to those challenges. While some fans will enjoy her detailed description of her fairytale romance and birth of her first child, I'd have liked to see less about her current family even more about basketball. After all, we didn't pick up this book to learn about a normal upscale family in the 21st century. I suspect that 99% of this book's readers are WNBA fans who want to go behind the scenes. There we're disappointed, Lisa's very careful not to "dish." The only conflict she describes is related to Lauren Jackson, a player I recognize from living in Seattle and being a Storm fan. Yes, I've been in the crowd chanting, "Beat LA" and clapping along with everybody else. We do hear about Lisa Leslie's long friendship with Dawn Staley. I remember Dawn being interviewed just before the WNBA championship game with Charlotte vs LA. The interviewer asked, "You call each other every week. What about this week?" Dawn said tersely, "No friends during a tournament." Lisa doesn't add much more. I would like to hear more about Lisa's interactions with the younger stars, such as Diana Taurasi, and the veterans, like the legendary Teresa Weatherspoon.

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