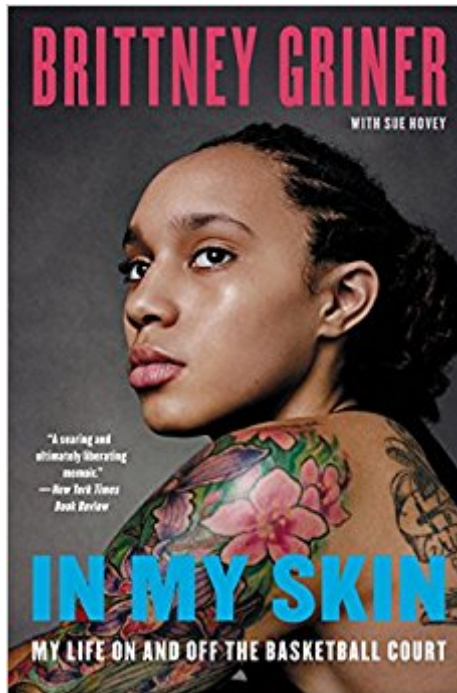




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# In My Skin: My Life On And Off The Basketball Court



## Synopsis

Hailed by ESPN as the world's most famous female basketball player, Brittney Griner, the dunking phenom and national sensation who is shattering stereotypes and breaking boundaries, now shares her coming-of-age story, revealing how she found her strength to overcome bullies and to embrace her authentic self. Brittney Griner, the No. 1 pick in the 2013 WNBA Draft, is a once-in-a-generation player, possessing a combination of size and athleticism never before seen in the women's game. But she's the sport's most transformative figure • (Sports Illustrated) is equally famous for making headlines off the court, for speaking out on issues of gender, sexuality, body image and self-esteem. At 6'8", with an 88-inch wingspan and a size 17 shoe (men's), the Phoenix Mercury star has heard every vicious insult in the book, enduring years of taunting that began in middle school and continues to this day. Through the highs and lows, Griner has learned to remain true to herself, rising above the haters trying to take her down. In her heartfelt memoir, she reflects on painful episodes in her life and describes how she came to celebrate what makes her unique—inspiring lessons she now shares. Filled with all the humor and personality Griner has become known for, *In My Skin* is more than a glimpse into one of the most original personalities in sports; it's also a powerful call to readers to be true to themselves, to love who they are on the inside and out. With a 8 pages of photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• [A] searing and ultimately liberating memoir. • (New York Times Book Review) • [A] heartfelt memoir. • (USA Today) • A frank account of one strong woman's education. • (Boston

Globe)â œGriner delivers an important message . . . about embracing your uniqueness.â • (Kirkus)

The world's most famous female basketball player shares her coming-of-age story, revealing how she found the strength to overcome bullies and to embrace her authentic self. At six foot eight with an eighty-eight-inch wingspan and a size 17 men's shoe, Phoenix Mercury star and three-time All-American Brittney Griner has been shattering stereotypes and breaking boundaries ever since she burst onto the national scene as a dunking high school phenom. But the sport's "most transformative figure" (Sports Illustrated) is equally famous for making headlines off the court, for speaking out on issues of gender, sexuality, body image, and self-esteem. In this earnest memoir, Brittney reflects on painful episodes in her life, as well as the highs. She describes how she came to celebrate what makes her uniqueâ "inspiring lessons she now shares with readers. Filled with all the humor and personality that Brittney Griner has become known for, *In My Skin* is more than a glimpse into one of the most original people in sports; it's a powerful call to readers to be true to themselves, to love who they are on the inside and out.

My husband and I had season tickets, all four years Brittney was at Baylor. We introduced all three of our grandchildren to basketball, through the Lady Bears. NO one, we knew, knew she was in so much emotional pain. She gave us so much enjoyment, every time she played. We continued to watch her play when she played on tv. Even buying an extra sports package to watch her games, on tv. We plan to do the same this summer. Our family wishes her only the best life has to offer and by telling HER story, she has possibly opened an avenue of communication with other gay children with their family, friends, educators and other members of society. Baylor and Waco would have been the losers, if Brittney Griner had not played here. Now, they can have had their eyes opened to the pain they caused this talented young woman and will not let this type of prejudice happen again. Excellent writing.

Pre-purchased this book on Kindle, and when it came I read it all the way through at one sitting. As a Baylor alum, and big backer of the women's basketball program, I appreciated Brittany's honesty. She put everything out there--warts and all. She is by no means perfect (who among us is) and she is still very young, but she demonstrates a wisdom beyond her years in many aspects of her life. You don't have to agree with her choices all the time, but you have to admire how she has managed to survive a very difficult life both on and off the court. I for one congratulate her on reaching a place where she is finally comfortable with who she is, even if others are not.

Griner comes across as a sympathetic person and the depiction of her relationship with her father is interesting, but much of this account is rather guarded, particularly about coming out and the status of athletes at Baylor. It feels like a book that was dictated into a microphone and heavily edited to avoid offense or compromising a career. It's mainly a promotional exercise. A franker version, when she's ready to tell it, would probably be quite a story. But that's largely missing here.

Having watched Brittney Griner play ball I was compelled to read her story. Working in a high school I can say many parts of her story are not unique. Childhood taunts and bullying are scarring many youth today. Ms. Griner's journey to self realization and acceptance is an inspiration to not only LGBT youth, but to all youth.

Very interesting, funny, open and heartwarming book. I thoroughly enjoyed it and it was a really easy read that was hard to put down. I just recently learned of Brittney Griner because of her engagement/marriage and break-up and I am fascinated by her. We all make mistakes in life and she is open about them which I really admire. Aside from her basketball prowess, I love her journey of self acceptance and being true to herself in what can be a harsh world. I think no matter who you are or where you are in life, you can learn from her story and understand that being authentic is not only a gift to yourself, but to the world. Bravo Brittney, I wish you the very best in life, both on and off the court!

I have to be honest, I bought this book because I needed to know what my step-daughter was going through. I loved how transparent Brittney is and it was helpful. I can only imagine how she must have felt growing up. Relating it to my daughter, I was ashamed of my initial reaction and now see the pain I caused her; I was being selfish. This book, this simple honest read, was so much more to me. I've recommended it to friends and recommend it to you. Lastly, I was no WNBA fan but I decided to watch some games. I came in at game three of the championship games. I was so involved, I watched Brittney get beat up on the court and watched her team win the finals. It was great...and it was all because of this book!

I'm a fan of Griner on the court, and a huge fan of her willingness to be open about who she is. Brittney is a positive role model and an inspiration to me. I love hearing her story, this time directly from her. I recommend this book to women's basketball fans, to female athletes - gay/straight,

young/old, to parents, to coaches, to anyone interested in questions of gender and sexuality. Be warned: once you start reading you will not want to stop until the end.

I bought this book on to read on my Kindle and read it in one day! It is a total page turner because it walks us through Brittney's childhood, middle school years, her relationship with her parents and her College coach, Kim Mulkey, as well as her debut in the WNBA. If you are even a remote fan of Brittney's or a fan of basketball, or of triumph over adversity, or a parent of an LGBT child, please read this book. As a parent of two young boys, ages 9 and 11, I want them to love all people, gay and straight, white, black, ESPECIALLY when they don't look, act, speak or dress the way society thinks they should. This book made me laugh out loud, cry at times and has left a lasting impression on me as it is a powerful reminder that what unites us all is our humanity. Period. As a parent, it also forced me to look in the mirror as I can see Brittney's dad in myself in the way that I can be so controlling and overprotective and it has made me rethink the way I address certain issues with my kids. This is a tell all book in that Brittney speaks straight from the heart and bares it all, the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is a great piece of work and a reminder of the old adage, "To Thine Own Self Be True."

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