

## YAO: A Life in Two Worlds

By Yao Ming, Ric Bucher

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Since Yao Ming's electrifying NBA debut with the Houston Rockets in 2002, the 7-foot-5 Chinese center has appeared in numerous TV commercials, on magazine covers, and in countless basketball-highlights reels. And yet, despite Yao's status as one of the country's most recognizable sports stars, the remarkable story of how a shy, gangly kid from Shanghai went on to become the NBA's first foreign-born and developed #1 draft pick has remained, until now, largely unknown.

With this memoir, Yao reveals himself as a thoughtful, opinionated young man whose insights extend far beyond the basketball court. He paints a compelling portrait of how his parents, both former Chinese basketball stars and fully aware of the bleak outlook for ex-players, resisted the Chinese government's interest in steering their son into the sport as a child. But the love of the game took hold of Yao as a teenager, and he began to sense both his own potential and the restraints he would face from the bureaucrats who ran the sport. As Yao's success in China grew, it became clear that his future would be with the NBA. But nothing came easily. With riveting detail, Yao recounts the white-knuckle gamesmanship required to win the approval of Chinese officials for his leap to America.

Yao: A Life in Two Worlds vividly chronicles Yao's move from Shanghai to Houston: The sudden millionaire has to learn to drive his newly acquired car; the young man who has only ever had one girlfriend tries to make sense of pro-basketball's hard-partying life off-court; the supremely dominant player in China is transformed into a NBA rookie unnerved at the prospect of facing Shaquille O'Neal. But soon enough, aided by his easygoing manner and sense of humor that has proved so appealing to fans, Yao finds his moorings and flourishes as a major NBA star with a worldwide following.

Sports writer Ric Bucher spent hundreds of hours in conversation with Yao in the U.S. and China, closely tracking the player's feelings and observations during that historic first season with the Rockets. Yao: A Life in Two Worlds is an inspiring account of how one man's faith in himself, hard work, and drive have taken him from national success story to international icon and helped build a bridge between two countries.

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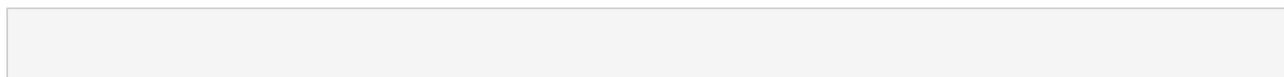
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## **YAO: A Life in Two Worlds** By Yao Ming, Ric Bucher Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Yao, the 7'5" Chinese NBA center, charms readers with the same grace and humility that have made him one of basketball's most mediagenic personalities. Coauthored by Bucher, an *ESPN the Magazine* writer, the book includes short sections by Yao's Houston Rockets teammates and managers, but its driving voice is 23-year-old Yao's. The language is simple, sincere and often funny as Yao jokes about Wilt Chamberlain's reputation as a ladies' man and presents a view of himself as a blue-collar worker ("I sweat for my paycheck"). The book follows Yao's career in China, the bureaucratic struggles involved in getting him to the U.S., and his experiences on the court, including what it was like to play against Shaq. Though there's lots of basketball talk, the book's most compelling sections address the clash of cultures, such as the time when Yao's former team, the Shanghai Sharks, banned one of Yao's representatives from negotiating because he was white. Yao clearly loves his native country and says his greatest dream is to lead China's national team to an Olympic gold medal. But with millions in endorsement deals, the adoration of fans across the globe and this earnest book, it's clear he's living out the American dream, too. Photos.

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From [Booklist](#)

The seven-foot-four-inch Yao, all-star center with the Houston Rockets, is the best basketball player ever to come out of China. This as-told-to autobiography covers the usual ground: Yao's youth as the son of two outstanding Chinese basketball players; his enrollment in the Chinese basketball pipeline and subsequent international success; and his decision to try the NBA. What sets the book apart from similar sports bios is Yao's comparison of Chinese culture with the one to which he's adapting in the U.S. For example, he contrasts the freewheeling NBA sexual lifestyle versus his own chaste courtship of a player on the Chinese women's national team. He also displays a sly sense of humor, digging playfully at NBA broadcaster Bill Walton by noting that Yao's translator has no idea what Walton is talking about. Coauthor Bucher, a first-generation American whose initial language was German, adds context to Yao's story with his own experience assimilating a new culture. This will be a very pleasant surprise for readers expecting the usual and-then-we-played memoir manufactured to capitalize on the popularity of a young superstar. *Wes Lukowsky*

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Review

". . . opens an enlightening window to his past and his struggle against . . . Chinese fear of failure and change." -- *Reuters*

"A fascinating story." -- *Coach John Wooden*

"A remarkable book . . ." -- *Sports Illustrated*

"A very pleasant surprise for readers expecting the usual and-then-we-played memoir manufactured to capitalize on the popularity . . ." -- *Booklist*

"Large, interview-like quotes with Ming's friends and family give the story rich detail." -- *Library Journal*

"Yao charms readers with the same grace and humility that have made him one of basketball's most mediagenic personalities." -- *Publishers Weekly*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Elaine Bell:**

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled YAO: A Life in Two Worlds? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have various other opinion?

#### **Mark Copeland:**

Now a day those who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this YAO: A Life in Two Worlds book since this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

#### **Allan Nguyen:**

YAO: A Life in Two Worlds can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing YAO: A Life in Two Worlds nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial imagining.

#### **Jaime McKenney:**

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