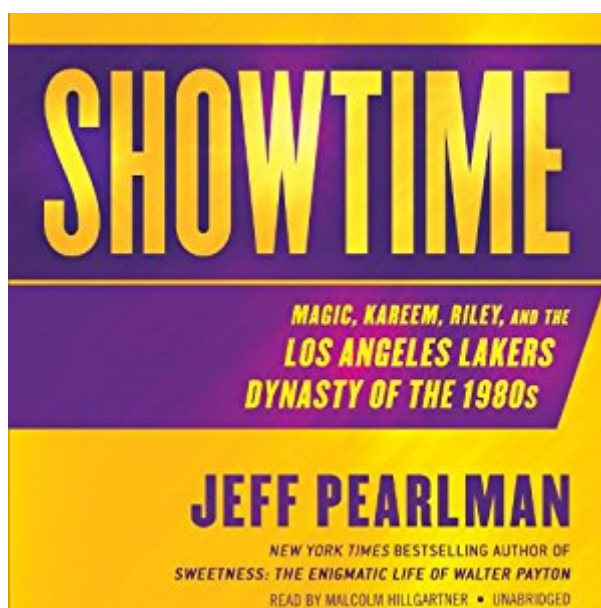


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# Showtime: Magic, Kareem, Riley, And The Los Angeles Lakers Dynasty Of The 1980s



## Synopsis

The New York Times best-selling author of *Sweetness* delivers the first all-encompassing account of the 1980s Los Angeles Lakers, one of professional sports' most-revered - and dominant - dynasties. The Los Angeles Lakers of the 1980s personified the flamboyance and excess of the decade over which they reigned. Beginning with the arrival of Earvin "Magic" Johnson as the number-one overall pick of the 1979 draft, the Lakers played basketball with gusto and pizzazz, unleashing their famed "Showtime" run-and-gun style on a league unprepared for their speed and ferocity - and became the most captivating show in sports and, arguably, in all-around American entertainment. The Lakers' roster overflowed with exciting all-star-caliber players, including center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and they were led by the incomparable Pat Riley, known for his slicked-back hair, his Armani suits, and his arrogant strut. Hollywood's biggest celebrities lined the court and gorgeous women flocked to the arena. Best of all, the team was a winner. Between 1980 and 1991, the Lakers played in an unmatched nine NBA championship series, capturing five of them. Best-selling sportswriter Jeff Pearlman draws from almost 300 interviews to take the first full measure of the Lakers' epic Showtime era. A dazzling account of one of America's greatest sports sagas, *Showtime* is packed with indelible characters, vicious rivalries, and jaw-dropping, behind-the-scenes stories of the players' decadent Hollywood lifestyles. From the Showtime era's remarkable rise to its tragic end - marked by Magic Johnson's 1991 announcement that he had contracted HIV - *Showtime* is a gripping narrative of sports, celebrity, and 1980s-style excess.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 18 hours and 36 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: March 4, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00II9O1OG

Best Sellers Rank: #176 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball

#327 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball #548 in Books > Audible Audiobooks >

Nonfiction > Sports & Recreation

## Customer Reviews

Really good explanations about the Showtime Lakers but felt pearlman reached in some analysis. The basic content though is really solid and as a passionate basketball fan, I did learn quite a bit about an era which I didn't know a tremendous amount about.

Love the info and hard work Pearlman does on these types of books. Paints a vivid picture of the behind the scenes situation of iconic teams and players.

Pearlman has a knack for making his readers feel like they are right in the middle of his story, even if (in this case) the story was 30 years ago.

Enjoyed Showtime immensely. It was an amazing thing to be immersed in a time and a place where the grass did literally seem greener over there. While it can have its downsides, there is nothing like Los Angeles, and the mythology of the Showtime Lakers. Jeff brings it all to life with thorough and tireless background and interviews from lesser-known-characters. Jeff also appeared on my podcast, for an hour of great talk (at least on his part): [...]

Great!

Good book. I like the author as a writer, but this book pales in comparison to Sweetness because the main characters are mostly still living. I also would've like more on Magic and his life around the time after his AIDS announcement. Kinda felt like the book left me hanging on that front, but I still couldn't put the book down. Unfortunately I'm comparing him to his last book, and that simply isn't fair. Easy read, interesting time period piece for me on 80s culture.

Amazing insight into my favorite team growing up and still now (I'm 49). You will love it. Don't hesitate, get reading!

I am a Laker fan, and I found this book exceptionally entertaining and easy to read. Tremendous insights into the whole 'Showtime' crew and surprising revelations about famous Laker players and their encounters with booze, sex and illicit streetdrugs. It was more prevalent than anyone thought! If you are a follower of pro basketball, I predict you'll like this book a lot.

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