



The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA

By Chris Ballard

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard

In *The Art of a Beautiful Game*, Chris Ballard, the award-winning *Sports Illustrated* writer who has covered the NBA for the past decade, goes behind the scenes to examine basketball in ways that will surprise even die-hard fans. An inveterate hoops junkie who played some college ball, Ballard sits down with the NBA's most passionate, cerebral players to find out their tricks of the trade and to learn what drives them, taking readers away from the usual sports talk radio fodder and deep into the heart of the game.

Ballard talks to Dwight Howard, a prolific shot-blocker, about the enervating feeling of meeting another man at the height of his leap; challenges Steve Kerr to a game of H-O-R-S-E to understand the mentality of a pure shooter; reveals the roots of Kobe Bryant's unmatched killer instinct; and spends time with LeBron James to better understand both his mental game and his seemingly unlimited physical skills. He tracks down renowned dunkers from Dominique to Shaq to explore the impact of the dunk on the modern game, shadows Shane Battier during his preparations to defend LeBron, takes lessons from a freethrow shooting guru who once hit 2,750 in a row, and attends an elite NBA training camp to feel the pain that turns a prospect into a pro.

Packed with lively characters and basketball history, and grounded in superb writing and the reportage that is the hallmark of *Sports Illustrated*, *The Art of a Beautiful Game* is an often witty, always insightful look at the men like Steve Nash, Yao Ming, and Alonzo Mourning who devote themselves to this elegant and complicated sport. It ultimately provides basketball fans what they all want: an inside read on the game they love.

 [Download The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan' ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan' ...pdf](#)

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA

By Chris Ballard

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard

In *The Art of a Beautiful Game*, Chris Ballard, the award-winning *Sports Illustrated* writer who has covered the NBA for the past decade, goes behind the scenes to examine basketball in ways that will surprise even die-hard fans. An inveterate hoops junkie who played some college ball, Ballard sits down with the NBA's most passionate, cerebral players to find out their tricks of the trade and to learn what drives them, taking readers away from the usual sports talk radio fodder and deep into the heart of the game.

Ballard talks to Dwight Howard, a prolific shot-blocker, about the enervating feeling of meeting another man at the height of his leap; challenges Steve Kerr to a game of H-O-R-S-E to understand the mentality of a pure shooter; reveals the roots of Kobe Bryant's unmatched killer instinct; and spends time with LeBron James to better understand both his mental game and his seemingly unlimited physical skills. He tracks down renowned dunkers from Dominique to Shaq to explore the impact of the dunk on the modern game, shadows Shane Battier during his preparations to defend LeBron, takes lessons from a freethrow shooting guru who once hit 2,750 in a row, and attends an elite NBA training camp to feel the pain that turns a prospect into a pro.

Packed with lively characters and basketball history, and grounded in superb writing and the reportage that is the hallmark of *Sports Illustrated*, *The Art of a Beautiful Game* is an often witty, always insightful look at the men like Steve Nash, Yao Ming, and Alonzo Mourning who devote themselves to this elegant and complicated sport. It ultimately provides basketball fans what they all want: an inside read on the game they love.

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #711740 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-10-23
- Released on: 2009-11-03
- Format: Kindle eBook



[Download The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard

Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review The conventional wisdom among casual NBA fans holds that the game is an improvisational, formless shoot-a-thon played by undisciplined athletes whose abilities are the product of genetics rather than practice. To which Sports Illustrated reporter Ballard replies, "Ha!" He explores such topics as killer instinct in a chapter on Los Angeles Lakers' star Kobe Bryant in which it's revealed that his legendary competitiveness can be traced back to a summer league where, as a 12 year-old matched against NBAers and collegiates, he didn't score a single point. Never again. He also explores the big man's world by examining the games of Shaquille O'Neal, Yao Ming, and Hall-of-Famer David Robinson. There are chapters revolving around pure shooters (Ray Allen), point guards (Steve Nash), and rebounders (Ben Wallace). In his examination of the free throw, he profiles Tom Amberry, a retired podiatrist who, in 1993 at 71, made 2,750 consecutive free throws over 10 hours in front of 10 paid witnesses. Amberry's feat and the Steve Nash profile are worth the price of the book. Ballard's previous foray into book-length basketball journalism was *Hoops Nation*, a 1999 Booklist Top 10 sports book. The titular thinking fans will find their admiration confirmed; casual fans will see the light and find themselves converted. Hallelujah! --Wes Lukowsky

Review

"People love to claim that pro athletes never have anything interesting to say, but that's because they're usually asked stupid, nonessential questions. Yet ask any talented man about the details of his craft and he will inevitably tell you everything you need to know, including who that man truly is. And that's what Chris Ballard has done. This is a basketball book for people who actually care *about basketball*." -- **CHUCK KLOSTERMAN, AUTHOR OF *EATING THE DINOSAUR***

About the Author

Chris Ballard is a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated* covering the NBA and writing features. He has written profiles of people with offbeat professions for the *New York Times Magazine* and is the author of *Hoops Nation*, which was named one of *Booklist's* Top Ten Sports Books of 1998, and *The Butterfly Hunter*. He lives in Berkeley, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eleanor Rowe:

The event that you get from The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA is the more deep you digging the information that hide into the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having that The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA instantly.

Waldo Gates:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you actually, why because this The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA guide written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still uncertainty The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one book that can break don't determine book by its cover, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Teresa Dillard:

Don't be worry in case you are afraid that this book may filled the space in your house, you will get it in e-book method, more simple and reachable. That The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA can give you a lot of pals because by you taking a look at this one book you have matter that they don't and make a person more like an interesting person. This particular book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that possibly your friend doesn't understand, by knowing more than different make you to be great folks. So , why hesitate? Let's have The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA.

David Auman:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got students? We believe that that concern was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. So you know that little person similar to reading or as reading become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important and also book as to be the point. Book is important thing to incorporate you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update regarding something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them are these claims The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA.

**Download and Read Online The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard
#DHKOBZ1FU3J**

Read The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard for online ebook

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard books to read online.

Online The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard ebook PDF download

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard Doc

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard MobiPocket

The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard EPub

DHKOBZ1FU3J: The Art of a Beautiful Game: The Thinking Fan's Tour of the NBA By Chris Ballard