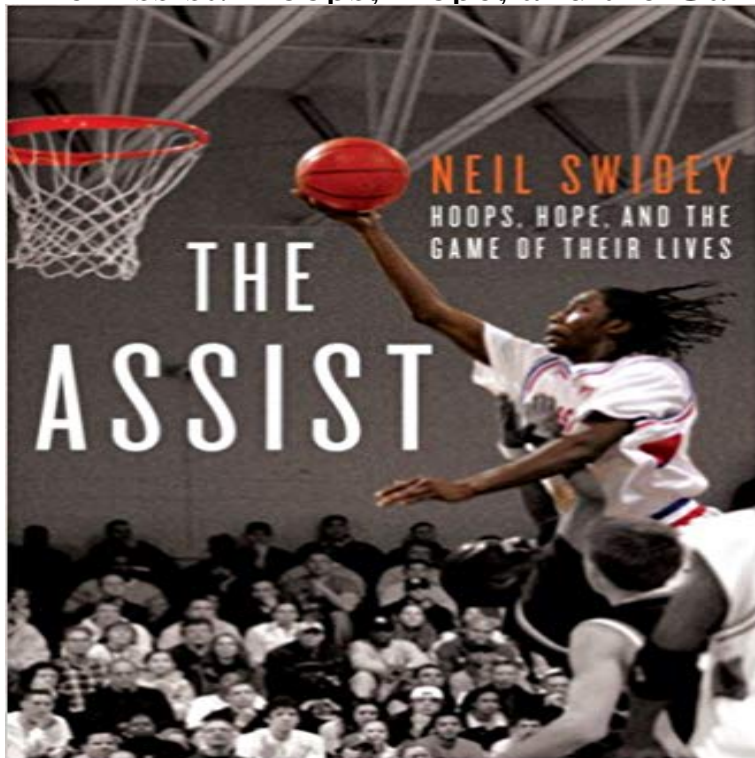


## The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives



Jack OBrien, the impossibly demanding basketball coach at Charlestown High School in Boston, has led his team to five state championship titles in six years. Less talked about is OBriens other winning record: Nearly every one of the players who stuck with his program poor kids growing up in high-crime neighborhoods and saddled with the lousy educational system available in urban America managed to get to college. But OBrien is no saint. Saints give without expecting anything in return. OBrien needs his players and their problems as much as they need him. Revolving around fascinating, complex characters, The Assist is a captivating narrative of a basketball team in pursuit of a championship that also drills down into the legacy of desegregation and explores issues of education, family, and race. OBrien is a middle-aged white guy coaching an all-black team playing in an all-white neighborhood that three decades ago was at the center of the busing wars dividing cities across the country a time and place indelibly described in J. Anthony Lukass powerful book Common Ground. Its the inspiring story of a man who makes a difference, and of boys surmounting nearly impossible odds; it is also the story of the ones who dont make it, and why.

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Only A Game, interviews Neil and gives The Assist a big **The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives by Hall** Jack OBrien is a high school basketball coach extreme in both his demands and his devotion. With monastic discipline, he has built a powerhouse program that **The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives - AbeBooks** The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives. by Neil Swidey Text Complexity Results Submit your own qualitative measurements for The Assist **The Assist Hoops, hope and the game of their lives Neil Swidey** The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives. By Neil Swidey. New York: Public Affairs, 2008. 373 pages. \$14.95 (soft cover). The Assist is not only **The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives by Neil** The Assist: Hoops, Hope, and the Game of Their Lives. Neil Swidey, Author . 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