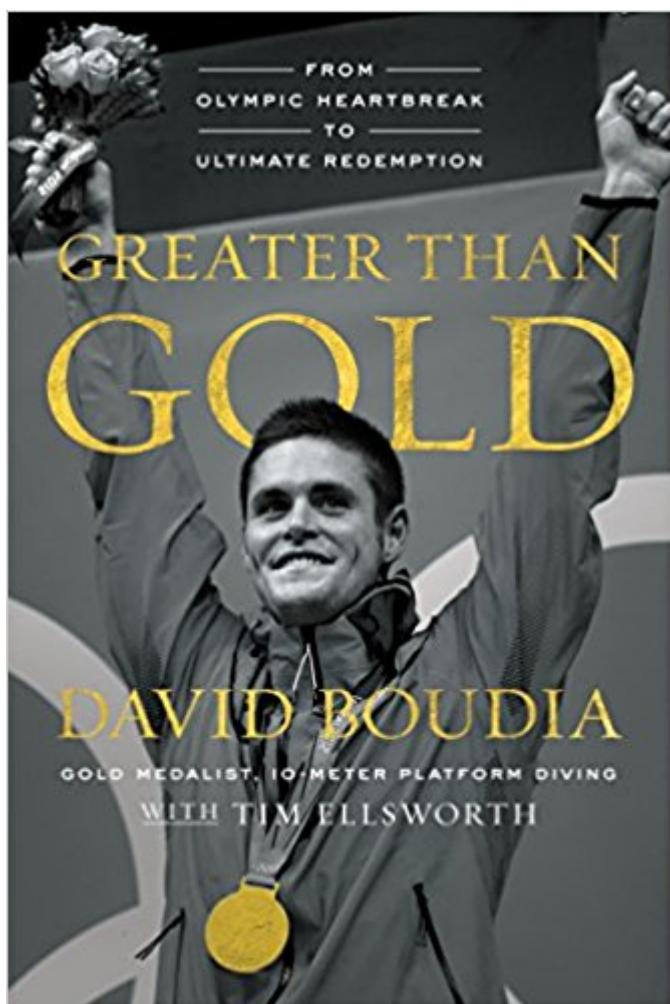


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Greater Than Gold: From Olympic Heartbreak To Ultimate Redemption



Synopsis

One of America's most heralded young divers, David Boudia twice went for Olympic gold, training obsessively and whole-heartedly for success. In his first Olympics, he failed miserably, not winning a single medal. Four years later saw a different story: he mounted the podium twice, winning both gold and bronze. The difference? In the intervening years, he'd changed the focus of his quest from seeking glory for himself to giving glory to God. In *Greater Than Gold*, Boudia provides a behind-the-scenes access to the rarefied world of world-class athletics while also showing readers that when they place their hope in God, they receive what they've been seeking all along.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Boudia is an Olympic champion, a gold-medalist at the 2012 London Olympics and winner of multiple world championship medals. Winner of six NCAA national titles at Purdue University and winner of five medals in the 2012 FINA Diving World Series, Boudia was the first American male since 1986 to medal in the 10m platform at a World Championship. He lives with his wife and daughter in West Lafayette, IN. Tim Ellsworth is associate vice president for university communications at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. He is the author of *Pujols: More Than the Game* and *God in the Whirlwind: Stories of Grace from the Tornado at Union University*. He and his wife, Sarah, have three children.

Greater Than Gold by David Boudia is a great place to start. Follow the diver through his quest for

Olympic Gold in Beijing, London, and ultimately Rio to find out what he discovered which made a much greater impact on his life. This well thought out and candidly written autobiography follows Boudia's mental, physical, and spiritual development from childhood to his career as a professional diver and man of faith. Though this book is an easy read, it does not lack a meaningful message or complex ideas and themes.

David's book is very easy and quick to read. I read it for about 30 minutes a day and finished it in less than two weeks. Since I live in Indiana, I am familiar with the locations and people referenced in the book, which made it even more interesting. David gives readers a behind-the-scenes look at Olympic Village and how athletes spend their days while there. I have often judged Olympic athletes for their bad behavior, but Greater Than Gold relays how young most athletes are, describes the lack of normalcy in their lives, and shows how difficult it is to be thrust into the spotlight. High school students, college students, and student athletes will benefit from reading this book as many face similar temptations and struggles as David. As a role model, David shows a life of faith offers peace and hope.

I served on the launch team and received an advance copy of the book. It is an inspirational and well written book - I didn't want it to end! David is honest in his struggles to find what really matters, despite having everything he thought he could ever want. I think teens (especially athletes) would really enjoy reading this, too. David is a wonderful role model and I can't wait to see him in Rio!

Fantastic message. I appreciated his honesty in explaining the spiritual pitfalls inherent with fame, and his own struggles and challenges in his walk with Christ, especially as he became more and more successful. Very powerful. This would be an excellent read especially for those in competitive sports, or for those pursuing a level of "success" they hope will satisfy them.

Full disclosure: David Boudia goes to the same church I do, but I've never talked to him personally. It's a very big church. I'd heard that there was an Olympic diver in our congregation, but I'm not a sports fan so didn't get terribly excited. I vaguely followed the buzz on Facebook from friends at church and was glad to hear he had won some medals at the 2012 Olympics. For one reason or another, we weren't at the Sunday evening service when he spoke following that 2012 Olympics, so I hadn't heard his testimony. His name stayed more or less within view, as a local diner near Purdue University's campus named a grilled cheese sandwich plate after him, and we eat there often.

Hmm...must be "somebody" if they named a meal after him!Then came the summer of 2016. Before he left for the 2016 Olympics, he spoke at church again, this time on Sunday morning. This time, I got to hear him, and wow, was I ever impressed! The transparency, the humility, the clear gratitude to God -- it was all amazing to hear! When I saw he had a book, we immediately bought it because we wanted to know more about this remarkable young man. Much of what I heard in that Sunday morning sermon is included in this book, but the book is much more descriptive and detailed.I won't give away any plot points beyond the obvious: He had it all, as far as the world was concerned. But "all" wasn't enough, wasn't satisfying, and he sought more. He found that "more" in giving his life to Jesus Christ and serving Him alone. This book is exactly the type of (auto)biography that I love reading -- grandly inspiring and yet practical for just a normal Jane like myself. I highly recommend it whether the reader is into sports or not.

This was a very genuine sharing of the struggles that Boudia went through both in his career as a diving athlete and away from the center stage of elite competitions including the Olympic games. It is a powerful testimony to the kind of destruction that could come with the kind of things that we chase after in life when our hearts are not set right. It is a great testimony to the love of God and the plan He has laid out for this brother in Christ. Despite the very different circumstances that he goes through, I think we will be able to find things that we can relate with. It is heart warming to see the supportive family this athlete has around him. I got chills when he shared that the first thing his coach did with him after that golden moment in 2012 was that he prayed with him for protection in what was going to be a tougher battle. It is so easy to forget how hard things could get with fame behind the scene with. I remember watching the games in 2012 not comprehending why Boudia did not on the surface seem to be just overwhelmed with excitement. To read what was going in his mind at that time and how he was trying to put everything in perspective with the faith he has in the Lord helped complete the story that was told through the media. It is powerful to see how he is working towards a life where he does not live by how he feels, holds all thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ, and genuinely tries to serve the people he comes across with. Thank you for being so courageous and bold in speaking to the Truth and the relationship that you have with Christ using the platform and the gifts that you have been blessed with and may you continue to be a powerful testimony of Christ's redemptive love for all. God bless.

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