

Air

I saw *Air* on the first day it was released in the theatres. Yes, I couldn't wait for it to be streamed and I enjoyed it! This back story about how Air Jordan came into being was moving, fascinating, and a lovely stroll down the 80's memory lane. This was over 40 years ago and it seemed like yesterday.

Air set me on a path of total immersion into Michael Jordan, the dominance of the Chicago Bulls, the Dream Team's Olympics experience, The Last Dance documentary, and just about any basketball highlight reel available where I could satiate my desire to see and learn more about that time. Yes, I was too busy with my own reality to really appreciate the dedication, athleticism, and the competitive drive on full display by these players. Will we ever see such a display near perfection in basketball? Perhaps not, but what a wonder to behold and an inspiration to all that hard work and dedication pays off!

I watched *Air* again when it started streaming. Even better the second time around.

Air inspired me to learn more about Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Dr. J, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, Koby Bryant, and so many other outstanding players that included the "Bad Boys" Detroit Pistons. Watching those games, their intensity, their determination to win at all costs, was a marvel, but the sheer artistry of "Black Jesus" a.k.a. Michael Jordan was a sight to behold. It was a privilege to watch the best and appreciate the glorious executions to the hoop.

Way back in the day, I was a rabid New York Knicks fan, consumed with the rivalry with the Boston Celtics, always living and dying on the last second of play that could change the outcome of the game. Each game was a thrilling ride. Today, I cannot name a basketball team that inspires me, but I am hopeful that one or two will emerge.

Over the years, I've used poetry moments to capture certain events that were outstanding to me. One such event was the playoff game between the Chicago Bulls and the Phoenix Suns so much so that it inspired me to craft *Setting Suns* – it can be found here: <https://www.ctabois.com/poems>. What a game!

C. TaBois May 22, 2023