

LINSANITY WAS A GIFT JUST FOR ME.

At least that's how it felt at the time. Prior to Jeremy Lin's astronomical rise, I had never witnessed a star athlete who reflected so many aspects of my identity. Chinese American. Harvard graduate. And he played for the Knicks, the team I grew up rooting for with my basketball-loving father. For the first time, the sports world—and the world beyond sports—was captivated by someone like me. (That is, if I was six inches taller and eighty pounds heavier and had world-class basketball skills.)

For a magical two-week stretch in 2012, Jeremy gave Asian Americans a sports hero who reflected our experiences. As he dazzled us with crossover dribbles, pinpoint passes, and buzzer-beating threes, he also talked about being overlooked, overcoming racial stereotypes, and proving skeptics wrong. His struggles were our struggles, so his triumphs were our triumphs. He made us believe that if he could succeed, so could we.

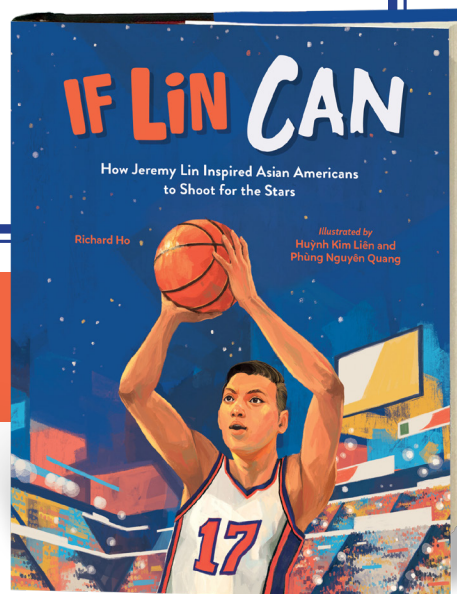
That's why I tuned in to watch this slim Asian point guard light up the court at Madison Square Garden, going shot for shot with superstars like Kobe Bryant. That's why I called up my father after every game to breathlessly discuss the latest feats of our new favorite Knick. Because every high-five Jeremy got from a teammate was like a high-five to the five-year-old I used to be—the kid who had a Patrick Ewing poster on his wall but would have loved to have a Jeremy Lin poster next to it.

My only regret is that I was already an adult when Linsanity happened. How powerful would it have been for me as a child? I'm sure that the magic of the moment transformed many dreamers into believers, and that many of those kids who cheered for Jeremy then are busy changing the world today.

Linsanity inspired an entire generation of young people to say, "I can." I can only hope this book does the same.

—RICHARD HO
author of *If Lin Can*

"A slam dunk choice for role modeling."
—Kirkus Reviews



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