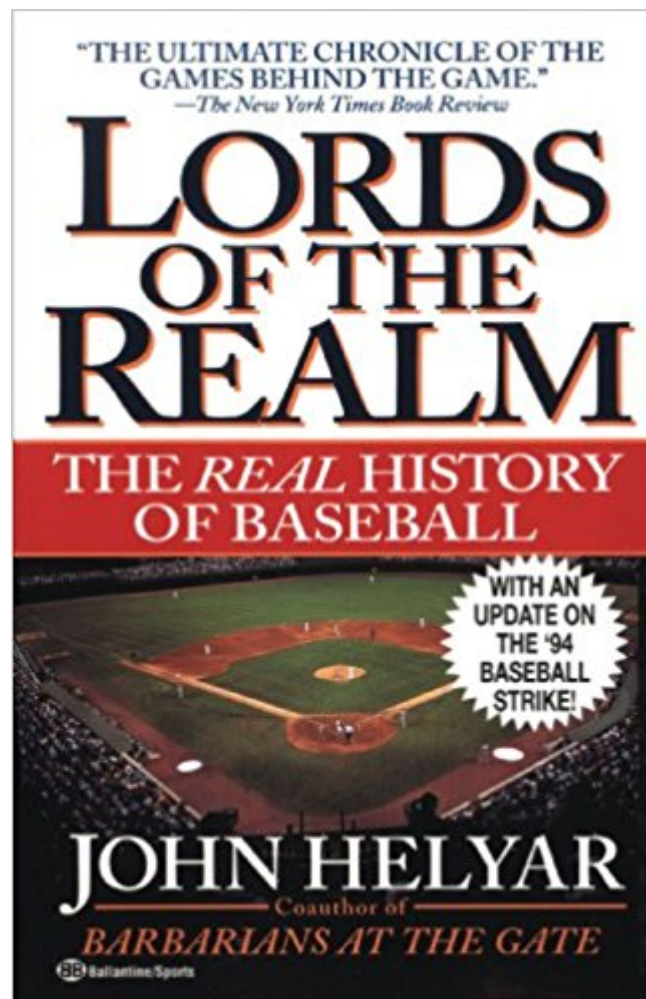




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The Lords Of The Realm: The Real History Of Baseball



Synopsis

"The ultimate chronicle of the games behind the game." — The New York Times Book Review
Baseball has always inspired rhapsodic elegies on the glory of man and golden memories of wonderful times. But what you see on the field is only half the game. In this fascinating, colorful chronicle — based on hundreds of interviews and years of research and digging — John Helyar brings to vivid life the extraordinary people and dramatic events that shaped America's favorite pastime, from the dead-ball days at the turn of the century through the great strike of 1994. Witness zealous Judge Landis banish eight players, including Shoeless Joe Jackson, after the infamous "Black Sox" scandal; the flamboyant A's owner Charlie Finley wheel and deal his star players, Vida Blue and Rollie Fingers, like a deck of cards; the hysterical bidding war of coveted free agent Catfish Hunter; the chain-smoking romantic, A. Bartlett Giamatti, locking horns with Pete Rose during his gambling days of summer; and much more. Praise for *The Lords of the Realm* "A must-read for baseball fans . . . reads like a suspense novel." — Kirkus Reviews "Refreshingly hard-headed . . . the only book you'll need to read on the subject." — Newsday "Lots of stories . . . well told, amusing . . . edifying." — The Washington Post

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Customer Reviews

Wall Street Journal sports reporter (and *Barbarians at the Gate* co-author) John Helyar has produced an entertaining and concise look at the real reasons that Major League Baseball has become the big business that it is today--and a definitive glimpse at where America's erstwhile national pastime is likely to head in the coming years. With vividly painted portraits of significant

players from Ty Cobb to Bud Selig, it offers both a current picture and an historical perspective that will prove invaluable to fans of the game as well as to students of business as the lords of the game continue to struggle with business problems that have forever altered their sport. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Helyar (*Barbarians at the Gate*) presents a history of player-owner labor relations that dissects baseball for the big-business it is. As background, he shows how the owners intimidated players into accepting low salaries and prohibited their movement through the reserve clause, which made the player the property of his team forever. The central character of the book is union organizer Marvin Miller. Helyar relates how Miller overcame anti-union feelings of the players, and how he succeeded in overturning the reserve clause with the cases of Catfish Hunter, Dave McNally and Andy Messersmith. He scored another win after the strike of 1981, when he hood-winked the baseball owners into salary arbitration, which grossly inflated salaries. We're shown the commissioners: pompous Bowie Kuhn; Peter Ueberroth and his disastrous "collusion" policies that caused the owners to pay millions of dollars in retribution to players for restricting their free movement; and Fay Vincent, whose tenure was soap-operish. This enlightening and provocative book may be too legalistic for the casual fan. Major ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is my favorite baseball book. I'm a huge fan of the game, and like the nostalgia aspect of it (the first three innings of Ken Burns baseball are perfect to me), but this book takes you behind the public face of the game. There are plenty of books that focus on individual players, seasons, and teams, but few that focus on baseball from the business and particularly labor aspect of the game. After reading this, you can see why the MLBPA and MLB enjoy relative peace after their epic battles while the other leagues still ride roughshod over their respective unions. It has all the characters that make baseball history so entertaining; Kenesaw Mountain Landis, Bowie Kuhn, Charlie Finley, Marvin Miller... and related interesting stories, Catfish Hunter getting free agency because Charley Finley was sloppy with payments is the most amusing to me. The book is primarily written from a pro-player/labor view point, so if that doesn't appeal to you, this might not be the best read other than that, it holds up.

Helyar's book dives into the long, tumultuous history of the business of baseball. He shows the evolution of the game from a sport completely dominated by the owners to a struggle between the

owners and the labor union. Most chapters show an evolution from this standpoint, with a few asides about popular baseball issues during their time (i.e. the suspension of George Steinbrenner and Pete Rose). Lots of interesting tidbits can be found in this book, such as why Dodgers Stadium serves only Miller beer products and how Catfish Hunter got his nickname. One downside is the book is slightly lengthy (over 600 pages), but a large majority of it is relevant, interesting, and easy to read. I strongly recommend this for any fan of baseball.

This is one of the best baseball books I've ever read, and the definitive narrative on owner-player relations. Gets to the heart of the matter regarding player disputes and the history of labor relations in baseball going all the way back to the early years of the 1870's.. Though the writing can be a bit dry at times, if you want to be informed as to what really happened in 1972, 1981, 1994, 1995 and all the years before and after, you must read this book!

Great book. Will open the eyes of any baseball fan on what the front office is really like and how poorly they treated the players.

I can't imagine a book that better documents the history of baseball. The book is extremely well researched and brings many events together to explain why Major League Baseball is where it is when the book ends in the early nineteen nineties. The only disappointment I had with the book is that it stops before one of the most significant and controversial events in Major League Baseball history, the 1993 lockout.

Anyone wanting to know what happened in the board rooms, this is the book. Baseball has survived in spite of itself!

I ordered this as a gift. Shipped to him in time and it's what was asked for, so I imagine it's a pretty good book.

One of the best baseball books ever written. Excellent service. Lovely book. I would not hesitate to order from these folks again.

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The Lords of the Realm: The Real History of Baseball Influencing The Unseen Realm: How to Influence The Spirit Realm for Victory in The Physical Realm(Spiritual Success Books) Baseball

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