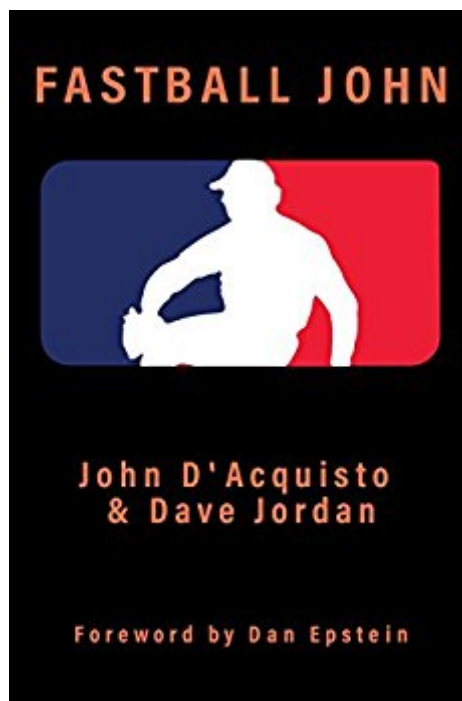


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# Fastball John



## Synopsis

From his status as the #17 pick overall in the 1970 June draft to his post-game minor league antics with Goose Gossage, Gorman Thomas and Charlie "Country Chuck" Manuel; the free love and "free agency" of 1972 California; the tragedy at Spring Training '74; Johnny's role as a pawn in the struggle for clubhouse power between manager Charlie Fox and Bobby Bonds; deep inside the untold story of the Bob Gibson/Dwight Gooden pitching duels; Dr. Frank Jobe and his handling of Johnny's critical arm woes; the endless nightlife and shady characters of 1976 San Francisco; the despair of ex-major leaguers deserted in the 1977 AAA baseball purgatory of sunny Honolulu; go behind the scenes of the since-abandoned Free Agent Re-Entry Draft; the backroom dealings between players and management ahead of the 1981 players' strike; the fateful meeting between Johnny and his former owner that may have derailed his career, as well as a late 80's stint in the ill-fated independent league that caught the attention of an old influential friend. "Heinie" Randy. Buzie. Ronny & The Bear. "Sweet Matt" Davvy. Marvin. Mac. Juan. Jimmie Reese. Gibby & Torre. "Moff" Keith. "Onti" Ras. Pete. Simba & Geno, among many others along for the ride. Featuring a foreword by popular 70's baseball historian Dan Epstein and flavored by music of the era spanning his time in the game, from The Everly Brothers, The Byrds, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Carpenters, The Temptations, Led Zeppelin, Eagles, David Bowie, Fleetwood Mac to Donna Summer, Nicolette Larson, Blondie, Dave Mason, Don Henley, Pretenders & New Order. For baseball fans who love the narrative structure of prestige cable dramas like Mad Men and House of Cards, this book is for you. It's the love story between a man and his profession.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

No matter the subject of a baseball biography, there is some sort of story to be told. Some of these stories are better than others and coincide with the skill level of that particular player. Then there are stories like today's book that come from an average player that did not put up Hall of Fame numbers, but has a Hall of Fame caliber story to tell baseball fans. A journey that took him all over North America John D'Acquisto's new book takes a hard and honest look at his life and career and the paths it has led him down. This honest look at his own life opens up a whole new side of John that fans can appreciate. Fastball John starts the readers on the journey of his life and shows his family roots in San Diego and his journey to become a big league pitcher. Next you learn first hand what it is like to be a first round draft pick with high expectations in a major league setting. Stops with major league teams and a few more stints in the minors are covered as well. John D'Acquisto shows the readers the ins and outs of what being a baseball player is really like. You see the friendships, the expectations of management, contract disputes and health scares that make up a player's life. What I found really interesting is how personal relationships are intertwined within this story. It gives a very intimate touch to a career that is usually unable to sustain those types of relationships. One other factor the authors were able to incorporate into the story was how the music of the time was able to become part of the moment and permanently ingrained in the memories. For my money the most interesting part of this story is also one of the saddest.

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