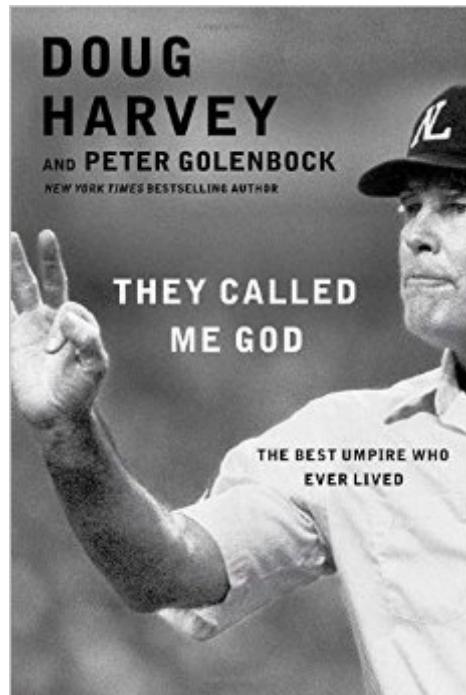


The book was found

They Called Me God: The Best Umpire Who Ever Lived



Synopsis

The incredible memoir from the man voted one of the "Best Umpires of All Time" by the Society of American Baseball Research is filled with more than three decades of fascinating baseball stories. Doug Harvey was a California farm boy, a high school athlete who nevertheless knew that what he really wanted was to become an unsung hero—a major league umpire. Working his way through the minor leagues, earning three hundred dollars a month, he survived just about everything, even riots in stadiums in Puerto Rico. And while players and other umps hit the bars at night, Harvey memorized the rule book. In 1962, he broke into the big leagues and was soon listening to rookie Pete Rose worrying that he would be cut by the Reds and laying down the law with managers such as Tommy Lasorda and Joe Torre. This colorful memoir takes you behind the plate for some of baseball's most memorable moments, including Roberto Clemente's three thousandth and final hit; the heroic three-and-two pinch-hit home run by Kirk Gibson in the 1988 World Series; and the nail-biting excitement of the 1968 World Series. But beyond the drama, Harvey turned umpiring into an art. He was a man so respected, whose calls were so feared and infallible, that the players called him "God." And through it all, he lived by three rules: never take anything from a player, never back down from a call, and never carry a grudge. A book for anyone who loves baseball, *They Called Me God* is a funny and fascinating tale of on- and off-the-field action, peopled by unforgettable characters from Bob Gibson to Nolan Ryan, and a treatise on good umpiring techniques. In a memoir that transcends the sport, Doug Harvey tells a gripping story of responsibility, fairness, and honesty.

Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Gallery Books; Reprint edition (March 24, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1476748802

ISBN-13: 978-1476748801

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (68 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #809,422 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #577 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#) #1694 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#)

Customer Reviews

They Called Me God: The Best Umpire Who Ever Lived by Doug Harvey with Peter Golenbock (Gallery Books: Simon & Schuster, 2014, 288 pages, \$27.00) is a very episodic collection of sometimes quite interesting tales of baseball which would frequently benefit from the help of quality co- (read ghost) writing superior to that provided by Peter Golenbock, although, if Harvey is to be taken at his word, he's not a man to be argued with or to negotiate on an even playing field. Harvey, who was active as a major league umpire from 1962 to 1992, has been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and been voted the second best umpire, behind Bill Klem, of all time. The book is filled with Harvey's assessment of ball players, managers, and fellow umpires based largely on their deportment on and off the field as well as the degree to which they easily bent themselves to his enormous will and sense of himself. Players and managers who learned not to argue or to do so according to Harvey's set of rules come off looking pretty good, while those who gave him a great deal of difficulty are hammered. Similarly, umpires who bent to his or agreed with his standards for umpiring come across as being good officials, although none but a couple of his mentors ever measure up to him. Harvey's egotism and his sense of his own correctness dominate the book. He frequently asserts his fairness and his willingness not to carry grudges, while his stories emphasize the cost to players, managers, and the game of his propensity to get even. I'm unsure whether these marked contrasts represent his lack of self-awareness or the depth of his hypocrisy. Doug Harvey grew up in the poverty of the Imperial Valley of California during the great depression. His father worked hard to maintain a hard-scrabble existence.

Doug Harvey umpired for 31 years (1962-1992) in the National League, spanning 4,673 games. He's one of only 10 umpires in the Hall of Fame. Harvey, famous for his nickname 'God,' says, "I don't believe I ever made a wrong call." Harvey, who didn't attend umpire school or have any connections in the major leagues, started at Class C for \$250 a month and made it to the major leagues within four years, faster than any other umpire. Harvey was known for always emphasizing integrity and fairness, memorizing the rule book word for word and not taking much crap from players or managers. If they called him anything besides his name, ump or mister, they were quickly ejected. "We don't ask for respect, we demand it," he says. Harvey advocated staying calm (give the manager or player 20 seconds to spout off), listen to whoever's complaining and then make them listen to you, and don't let anyone get in your face. He says he gave managers and players the option of being ejected. He warned them that if they persisted, they would be ejected. It was their choice. Umpires are the only thing that stand between fairness and chaos. And, umpires are part of the game to make sure neither team has an unfair advantage. Harvey maintains that baseball

wouldn't survive without umpires. Here are some of Harvey's other observations; Frank Robinson: "Toughest player I ever faced." Fred Hutchinson: "Toughest manager and all the umps despised him." Walt Alston: "Most respect for any man I umped for." Bruce Bochy: "Best manager in the game today." Sandy Koufax: "Best pitcher I ever saw." Pete Rose: "Most intense player."

[Download to continue reading...](#)

They Called Me God: The Best Umpire Who Ever Lived From Zero to Sixty on Hedge Funds and Private Equity 3.0: What They Do, How They Do It, and Why They Do The Mysterious Things They Do Ultimate Warrior: A Life Lived Forever: A Life Lived "Forever" Where We Lived: Discovering the Places We Once Called Home Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do The Best Broadway Songs Ever (The Best Ever Series) Best Dump Cakes Ever: Mind-Blowingly Easy Dump-and-Bake Cake Mix Desserts (Best Ever) Best Cobblers and Crisps Ever: No-Fail Recipes for Rustic Fruit Desserts (Best Ever) Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever / El mejor libro de palabras de Richard Scarry (Richard Scarry's Best Books Ever) (English, Multilingual and Spanish Edition) Dinosaurs: How They Lived and Evolved The Richest Man Who Ever Lived: The Life and Times of Jacob Fugger Modoc: The True Story of the Greatest Elephant That Ever Lived Modoc: True Story of the Greatest Elephant That Ever Lived The Richest Man Who Ever Lived: King Solomon's Secrets to Success, Wealth, and Happiness Secrets of the Richest Man Who Ever Lived They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group They Called Her Molly Pitcher They Called Me Bunny They Called Themselves the KKK They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School

[Dmca](#)