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## The Best American Sports Writing 2019 The Best Am

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Road Swing  
You Can't Make This Up  
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Great Men Die Twice  
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Hail Mary Doubleday Books

The instant New York Times bestseller! From one of America's most beloved sportswriters and the bestselling author of Pappyland, a collection of true stories about the dream of greatness and its cost in the world of sports. "Wright Thompson's stories are so full of rich characters, bad actors, heroes, drama, suffering, courage, conflict, and vivid detail that I sometimes think he's working my side of the street - the world of fiction." - John Grisham There is only one Wright Thompson. He is, as they say, famous if you know who he is: his work includes the most read articles in the history of ESPN (and it's not even close) and has been anthologized in the Best American Sports Writing series ten times, and he counts John Grisham and Richard Ford among his ardent admirers (see back of book). But to say his pieces are about sports, while true as far as it goes, is like saying Larry McMurtry's Lonesome Dove is a book about a cattle drive. Wright Thompson figures people out. He jimmys the lock to the furnaces inside the people he profiles and does an analysis of the fuel that fires their ambition. Whether it be Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods or Pat Riley or Urban Meyer, he strips the away the self-serving myths and fantasies to reveal his characters in full. There are fascinating common denominators: it may not be the case that every single great performer or coach had a complex relationship with his father, but it can sure seem that way. And there is much marvelous local knowledge: about specific sports, and times and places, and people. Ludicrously entertaining and often powerfully moving, *The Cost of These Dreams* is an ode to the reporter's art, and a celebration of true greatness and the high price that it exacts.

*Road Swing* HarperCollins

"Sometimes sports mirrors society, sometimes it allows us to understand the larger society a little better. But mostly, it is a world of entertainment of talented and driven young men and women who do certain things with both skill and passion." --David Halberstam David Halberstam was a distinguished journalist and historian of American politics. He was also a sports writer. Everything They Had brings together for the first time his articles from newspapers and magazines, a wide-ranging collection edited by Glenn Stout, selected over the full scope of Halberstam's five decades as one of America's most honored journalists. These are dazzling portraits of some of the most compelling sports figures of our era, the superstars of popular sports like basketball, football, and baseball, but also fishing, soccer, and rowing, and the amateur athletes who play for the love of the game. In "My Dinner with Theodore," Halberstam recounts his long anticipated--and unforgettable--meeting with Red Sox legend Ted Williams. Against the backdrop of 1960s Nashville, he beautifully recounts a lifelong love of football in "How I Fell in Love with the NFL." And "Men Without Women," set on a fishing expedition in Patagonia, is more than a hunt for giant brown trout--it is a story of fishing, friendship, and fellowship. These and many more stories exemplify the breadth and depth of David Halberstam's devotion to diverse sports and his respect and fascination for the men and

women who play them so well. The result is an intimate and personal collection that reveals the issues and the ideals David Halberstam cared about--racial equality, friendship, loyalty, and character--and creates a vivid and unforgettable portrait of the author himself. Everything They Had takes its rightful place alongside Halberstam's bestselling sports titles, which include *The Breaks of the Game*, *The Amateurs*, *Summer of '49*, and *The Education of a Coach*.

*You Can't Make This Up* Open Road Media

From the street game to March Madness to Jordan and LeBron, the greatest writing about the grit, grace, and glory of basketball Made in America, basketball is a sport that stirs a national passion, reaching fever pitch during the NCAA's March Madness and the NBA Finals. Masterfully assembled by longtime Sports Illustrated writer Alexander Wolff, Basketball spans eight decades to bring together a dream team of writers as awe-inspiring and endlessly inventive as the game itself. Here are in-depth profiles of the legends of the hardcourt--Russell, Kareem, Bird, Jordan, and LeBron--and storied franchises such as the Knicks and Celtics, along with dazzling portraits of the flash and sizzle of playground ball and more personal reflections on the game by some of America's finest writers, among them Donald Hall, John Edgar Wideman, and Pat Conroy. Highlights include James Naismith recalling how he invented the game that would go on to conquer the world; John McPhee capturing the ever-disciplined Bill Bradley as a Princeton Tiger; Peter Goldman's indelible portrait of the life and death of a Harlem Globetrotter; and Michael Lewis's account of the brave new world of NBA analytics. Classic journalism about inner-city basketball by Pete Axthelm, Rick Telander, and Darcy Frey is joined by stories of the game's popularity across America, from the heartland of Hoosier country to an Apache Reservation in Arizona.

**The Best American Sports Writing 2016** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Presents an anthology of the best sports writing published in 2014, selected from American magazines and newspapers.

*Great Men Die Twice* Library of America

Sport has always been central to the movements of both the nation-state and the people who resist that nation-state. Think of the Roman Colosseum, Jesse Owens's four gold-medal victories in the 1936 Nazi Olympics, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's protest at the 1968 Olympics, and the fallout Colin Kaepernick suffered as a result of his recent protest on the sidelines of an NFL game. Sport is a place where the body and the mind are the most dangerous because they are allowed to be unified as one energy. *Bodies Built for Game* brings together poems, essays, and stories that challenge our traditional ideas of sport and question the power structures that athletics enforce. What is it that drives us to athletics? What is it that makes us break our own bodies or the bodies of others as we root for these unnatural and performed victories? Featuring contributions from a diverse group of writers, including Hanif Abdurraqib, Fatimah Asghar, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Louise Erdrich, Toni Jensen, Ada Limón, Tommy Orange, Claudia Rankine, Danez Smith, and Maya Washington, this book challenges America by questioning its games.

*Bodies Built for Game* Beacon Press

The latest addition to the acclaimed series showcasing the best sports writing from the past year.

**Fenway 1912** W. W. Norton & Company

In this highly entertaining and insightful memoir, one of television's most respected broadcasters interweaves the story of his life and career with lively firsthand tales of some of the most thrilling events and fascinating figures in modern sports. No sportscaster has covered more major sporting events than Al Michaels. Over the course of his forty-plus year career, he has logged more hours on live network television than any other broadcaster in history, and is the only play-by-play commentator to have covered all four major sports championships: the Super Bowl, World Series, NBA Finals, and the Stanley Cup Final. He has also witnessed first-hand some of the most memorable events in modern sports, and in this highly personal and revealing account, brings them vividly to life. Michaels shares never-before-told stories from his early years and his rise to the top, covering some of the greatest moments of the past half century—from the "Miracle on Ice"—the historic 1980 Olympic hockey finals—to the earthquake that rocked the 1989 World Series. Some of the greatest names on and off the field are here—Michael Jordan, Bill Walton, Pete Rose, Bill Walsh, Peyton and Eli Manning, Brett Favre, John Madden, Howard Cosell, Cris Collinsworth, and many, many more. Fortright and down-to-earth, Michaels tells the truth as he sees it, giving readers unique insight into the high drama, the colorful players, and the heroes and occasional villains of an industry that has become a vital part of modern culture.

*The Best American Sports Writing 2019* HarperCollins

For more than twenty-five years, *The Best American Sports Writing* has curated the year's finest sports journalism. Continuing the tradition in a long line of notable guest editors is Rick Telander, acclaimed journalist, author, and champion of the written word. His choices are defined by one shared thread: effort, on the part of athletes and writers alike. The physical strength it takes to play professional hockey and football, or for a forty-two-year-old writer to learn how to dunk in six months. The mental and emotional toughness needed to turn around a losing team, or to speak out about a coach. The careful striving to make everything seem effortless. This edition encompasses it all. *The Best American Sports Writing 2016* includes Don Van Natta Jr. and Seth Wickersham, L. Jon Wertheim and Ken Rodriguez, Mark Fainaru-Wada and Steve Fainaru, Brett Popplewell, Alexandra Starr, Wright Thompson and others RICK TELANDER is a Chicago Sun-Times senior sports columnist and the Basketball Evangelist for Slam magazine. He has also written for Sports Illustrated and ESPN: The Magazine, and has been featured seven times in *The Best American Sports Writing*. He is the author of eight books, including *Heaven Is a Playground* and *From Red Ink to Roses*. GLENN STOUT, series editor of *The Best American Sports Writing* since its inception, is the author of *Young Woman and the Sea* and *Fenway 1912*.

*The Best American Sports Writing 2014* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

On the eve of his thirtieth birthday, Steve Rushin decided he wanted to revisit the twin pursuits of his youth: epic car trips and an unhealthy obsession with sports. He had a desire to see French Lick, Indiana, the boyhood home of Larry Bird, to attend a Texas high school football game and to watch Louisville Sluggers being "Powerized"—whatever on Earth that means. So he got into his Japanese car and drove to American sports shrines for a year. "I was going to put my finger on the pulse of American sports, and I wanted that finger to be one of those giant, foam-rubber index fingers worn

by pinhead fans across the land. So I joined Interstate 35 and traveled south out of Minneapolis in a cold gray mist. It was like driving into a sneeze. The radio reported ninety-four-mile-an-hour winds in southern Minnesota, as well as golf ball-, baseball-, and softball-sized hail. It was raining sporting goods, and I was following the perforated yellow line of the highway, like a trail of dripping ballpark nacho cheese, that would lead me to the soul of American sports—or whatever I was looking for." Like a sports-addled "Blue Highways, Road Swing is a hearty chunk of Americana, a travelogue about the places that are the soul of sports, and a reflection of those themes that are unique to the American character.

*One Shot at Forever* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Frank Bascombe has a younger girlfriend and a job as a sportswriter. To many men of his age, thirty-eight, this would be a cause for optimism, yet Frank feels the pull of his inner despair and especially of his recent losses - his preferred career has ended, his wife has divorced him, and a tragic accident took his elder son. In the course of this Easter weekend, Frank will lose all the remnants of his familiar life, though he will emerge heroic with spirits soaring. This is a magnificent novel that propelled Richard Ford into the first rank of American writers.

*Everything They Had* Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

An anthology of top-selected sports writing from the past year is culled from hundreds of national, regional, and specialty publications as well as a variety of leading sports blogs.

**This Love Is Not for Cowards** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

This is the first title in a new series *Emerging Writers in Creative Nonfiction*. This collection of sixteen essays encompasses a wide range of fascinating characters: Tom Cruise, Geraldo Rivera, the woman who pilots balloons, the man who trains and races pigs and many other extraordinary people. Jeanne Marie Laskas is a highly talented story teller who looks at the world from her unique perspective.

*Rules of the Game* Library of America

A must-read collection featuring the best in sports journalism Glenn Stout, founding editor of the *Best American Sports Writing*, has curated an essential anthology showcasing incredible feats and diverse perspectives across the world of sports. Selected from a wide range of newspapers, magazines, and digital publications during the previous year, these stories capture enduring moments while celebrating the craft of writing at its most sublime. This extraordinary collection reveals the fascinating stories behind the sports we love, the competitors who push their boundaries, and the cultures they are ultimately embedded in.

*The Sportswriter* St. Martin's Griffin

A centennial tribute to the beloved ballpark shares the behind-the-scenes story of its tumultuous origins and first year, sharing coverage of such topics as the unorthodox blueprint that belies the park's notorious quirks, the construction contributions of local citizens and the history-making World Series battle between the Red Sox and the Giants. 25,000 first printing.

*The Balloon Lady and Other People I Know* Melville House

Bill Littlefield (NPR's *Only a Game*) presents the second installment in the *Library of America* series devoted to classic American sportswriters, a definitive collector's edition of the pathbreaking writer who invented the long-form sports story. Like his friend and admirer Red Smith, W. C. Heinz (1915-2008) was one of the most distinctive and influential sportswriters of the last century. Though

he began his career as a newspaper reporter, Heinz soon moved beyond the confines of the daily column, turning freelance and becoming the first sportswriter to make his living writing for magazines. In doing so he effectively invented the long-form sports story, perfecting a style that paved the way for the New Journalism of the 1960s. His profiles of the top athletes of his day still feel remarkably current, written with a freshness of perception, a gift for characterization, and a finely tuned ear for dialogue. Jimmy Breslin named Heinz's "Brownsville Bum"—a brief life of Al "Bummy" Davis, Brooklyn street tough and onetime welterweight champion of the world—"the greatest magazine sports story I've ever read, bar none." His spare and powerful 1949 column, "Death of a Race Horse," has been called a literary classic, a work of clarity and precision comparable to Hemingway at his best. Now, for this essential writer's centennial, Bill Littlefield, the host of NPR's *Only A Game*, presents the essential Heinz: thirty-eight columns, profiles, and memoirs from the author's personal archive, including eighteen pieces never collected during his lifetime. Though Heinz's great passion was boxing—the golden era of Rocky Graziano, Floyd Patterson, and Sugar Ray Robinson—his interests extended to the wide world of sports, with indelible profiles of baseball players (Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio), jockeys (George Woolf, Eddie Arcaro), hockey players, football coaches, scouts and trainers and rodeo riders.

*The Best American Sports Writing 2018* HarperCollins

Presents essays about sports chosen from magazines and newspapers published in 2011, on topics ranging from bullfighting to basketball, baseball, and boxing.

*The Best American Sports Writing 2015* Library of America

A bold and impassioned meditation on injustice in our country that punctures the illusion of a postracial America and reveals it as a place where authoritarianism looms large. Whether the issues are protest, labor, patriotism, or class division, it is clear that professional sports are no longer simply fun and games. Rather, the industry is a hotbed of fractures and inequities that reflect and even drive some of the most divisive issues in our country. The nine provocative and deeply personal essays in *Full Dissidence* confront the dangerous narratives that are shaping the current

dialogue in sports and mainstream culture. The book is a reflection on a culture where African Americans continue to navigate the sharp edges of whiteness—as citizens who are always at risk of being told, often directly from the White House, to go back to where they came from. The topics Howard Bryant takes on include the player-owner relationship, the militarization of sports, the myth of integration, the erasure of black identity as a condition of success, and the kleptocracy that has forced America to ask itself if its beliefs of freedom and democracy are more than just words. In a time when authoritarianism is creeping into our lives and is being embraced in our politics, *Full Dissidence* will make us question the strength of the bonds we think we have with our fellow citizens, and it shows us why we must break from the malignant behaviors that have become normalized in everyday life.

*The Best American Sports Writing 2012* Triumph Books

"A thrilling Jazz Age chronicle of America's first gangster couple, Margaret and Richard Whittemore"--

*The Best American Sports Writing 2017* Random House

The latest addition to the acclaimed series showcasing the best sports writing from the past year.

*The Best American Sports Writing 2020* Mariner Books

Named a best book of 2011 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *At the Fights* is a gritty and glittering anthology of the very best writing about boxing. Here are Jack London on the immortal Jack Johnson; Richard Wright on Joe Louis's historic victory over Max Schmeling; A. J. Liebling's brilliantly comic portrait of a manager who really identifies with his fighter; Jimmy Cannon on Archie Moore, the greatest fighter of the 1950s; James Baldwin and Gay Talese on Floyd Patterson's epic fight with Sonny Liston; George Plimpton on Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X; Norman Mailer on the Rumble in the Jungle; Mark Kram on the Thrilla in Manila; Pete Hamill on legendary trainer and manager Cus D'Amato; Mark Kriegel on Oscar De La Hoya; and David Remnick and Joyce Carol Oates on Mike Tyson. National Book Award-winning novelist Colum McCann (*Let the Great World Spin*) offers a foreword and, in a new preface, John Schulian pays tribute to his co-editor, George Kimball, who lost his battle with cancer in 2011.