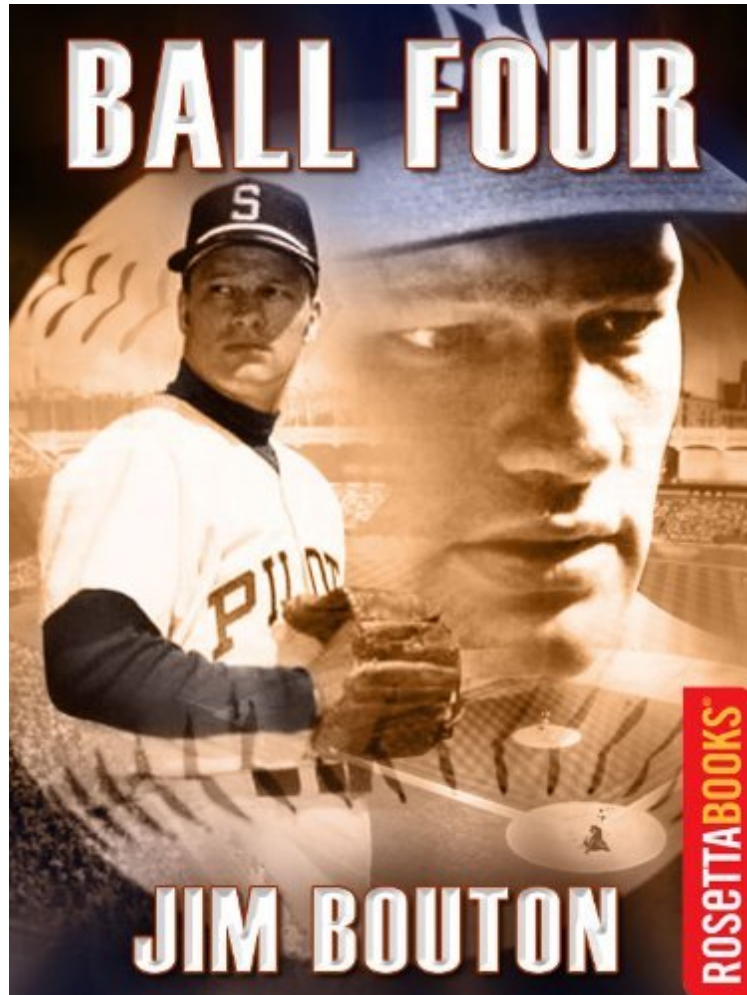


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Von Jim Bouton

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Von Jim Bouton : Ball Four (RosettaBooks Sports Classics) (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ball Four (RosettaBooks Sports Classics) (English Edition):

KurzbeschreibungBall Four: The Final Pitch is the original book plus all the updates, unlike the 20th Anniversary Edition paperback. When Ball Four was published in 1970, it created a firestorm. Bouton was called a Judas, a Benedict Arnold and a social leper for having violated the sanctity of the clubhouse. Baseball commissioner Bowie

Kuhn tried to force Bouton to sign a statement saying the book wasn't true. Ballplayers, most of whom hadn't read it, denounced the book. It was even banned by a few libraries. Almost everyone else, however, loved *Ball Four*. Fans liked discovering that athletes were real people--often wildly funny people. Many readers said it gave them strength to get through a difficult period in their lives. Serious critics called it an important document. David Halberstam, who won a Pulitzer for his reporting on Vietnam, wrote a piece in *Harpers* that said of Bouton: He has written a book deep in the American vein, so deep in fact that it is by no means a sports book. In 1999 *Ball Four* was selected by the New York Public Library as one of the Books of the Century. And *Time* magazine chose it as one of the 100 Greatest Non-Fiction books. Besides changing the image of athletes, the book played a role in the economic revolution in pro sports. In 1975, *Ball Four* was accepted as legal evidence against the owners at the arbitration hearing, which led to free agency in baseball and, by extension, to other sports. Today *Ball Four* has taken on another role--as a time capsule of life in the sixties. It is not just a diary of Bouton's 1969 season with the Seattle Pilots and Houston Astros, says sportswriter Jim Caple. It's a vibrant, funny, telling history of an era that seems even further away than four decades. To call it simply a tell-all book is like describing *The Grapes of Wrath* as a book about harvesting peaches in California. This ebook version of *Ball Four* includes the first edition, the 1980, 1990 and 2000 updates, and 138 photos.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Jim Bouton was born in Newark, NJ, in 1939. He grew up in Rochelle Park, a blue-collar town that was too small for Little League. The result was that kids learned to play baseball without uniforms, parents, coaches, or umpires. In high school, his nickname was warm up Bouton because he never got into the games. Advised that becoming a major league pitcher was unrealistic, Bouton wrote his Careers Week report on the life of a forest ranger. He got a C on his report and an A on the cover--a nice drawing of a squirrel in a tree. Bouton was an All-Star pitcher and won 20 games for the Yankees in 1963. The next year he won 18 games and beat the Cardinals twice in the World Series. Eventually a sore arm got him sold to the Seattle Pilots--for a bag of batting practice balls. That's when he began taking notes for his diary *Ball Four*, published in 1970. In the 1970s he was a top-rated TV sportscaster in New York City, acted in a Robert Altman film called *The Long Goodbye*, and made a brief comeback with the Atlanta Braves. In 2003 Bouton wrote and self-published *Foul Ball*, a diary of his battle to save a historic ballpark in Pittsfield, MA. Bouton says he only writes when he's bursting to say something. *Ball Four* was a book I wanted to write, he says. *Foul Ball* was a book I had to write. Today Bouton lives in a forest in western Massachusetts.

As a player, former hurler Jim Bouton did nothing half-way; he threw so hard he'd lose his cap on almost every pitch. In the early '70s, he tossed off one of the funniest, most revealing, insider's takes on baseball life in *Ball Four*, his diary of the season he tried to pitch his way back from oblivion on the strength of a knuckler. The real curve, though, is Bouton's honesty. He carves humans out of heroes, and shines a light into the game's corners. A quarter century later, Bouton's unique baseball voice can still bring the heat.

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A book deep in the American vein, so deep in fact it is by no means a sports book" --David Halberstam
"Ball Four is a people book, not just a baseball book." --Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*