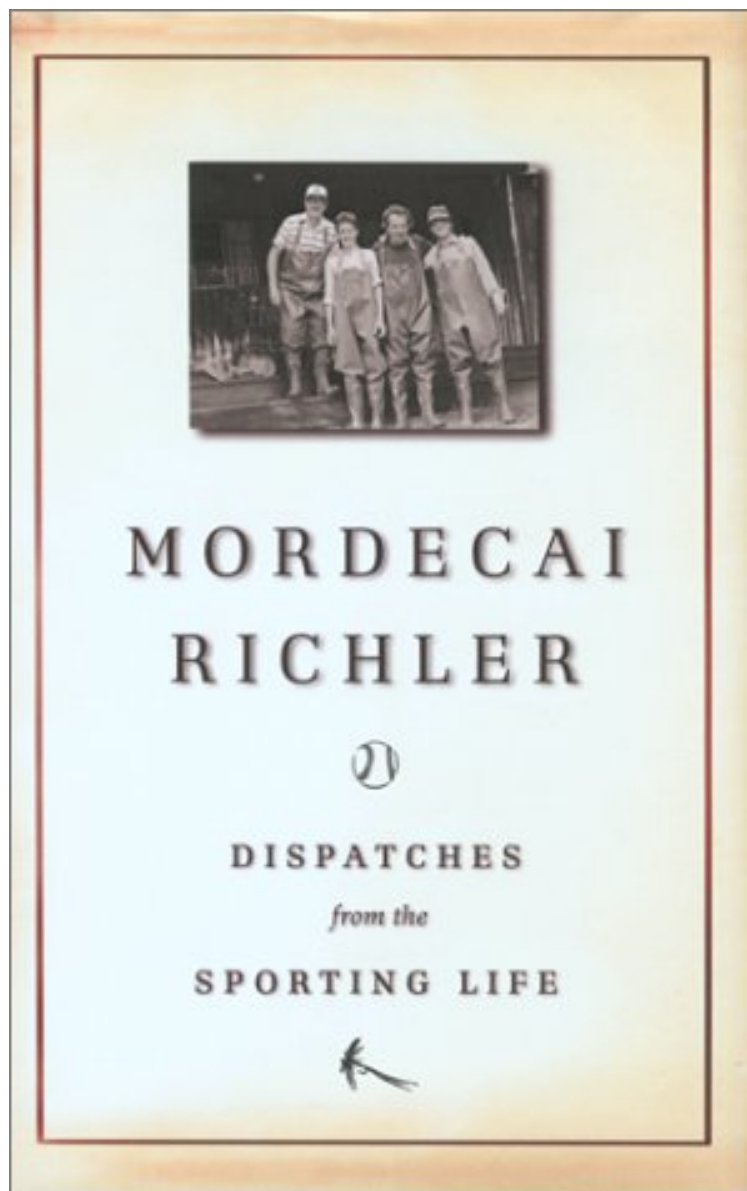


(Download ebook) Dispatches from the Sporting Life

## Dispatches from the Sporting Life

*Mordecai Richler*

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**Mordecai Richler : Dispatches from the Sporting Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dispatches from the Sporting Life:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "He's an art form,the baseball diamond his canvas."By Jerry GuildAlthough this book was published in 2002;I have the distinct honor to be writing the first Customer Review.In my opinion,Richler is one of the best Canadian writers,and if you've never read anything by him;this book should

convince you. His perception, observation, experiences and expertise with language is simply masterful. This book is composed of material he wrote on sports over the years; the bulk of it from the mid-eighties. That means about 20 years ago. I would think that someone at least over 60 would relate more to this material than someone under 40. Personally, I lived in Montreal in the 60's, and was a diehard "Habs" fan and enjoyed seeing the Expos and The Worlds Fair come to Montreal. Those were very heady days. All that has changed and that whole excitement is now a thing of the past. Reading this book is very illuminating and answers the questions as to what has happened to sports and what is missing today. Richler really brings it home. Let me quote a few lines from his book. "It isn't the stars who are expensive, it's the high price of mediocracy." "After you quit, though, it's a long time between Monday and Friday." "Beliveau led his team to 10 Stanley Cups in 18 years with the club as a player." "Dick Irvin used to say it doesn't matter how hard you hit the glass or the boards, the light won't go on." "Big, handsome Jean (Beliveau) was a commanding presence, and as long as he was on the ice, the game couldn't degenerate into Ping-Pong: it was hockey as it was meant to be played." Richler shows how the sports stars played for the love of the game and its enjoyment and particularly for the respect and admiration of the fans. In the off-season, they lived in the community and were very approachable. Regretfully, that is a thing of the past. He shows us how it has changed and why things went so wrong. Imagine, after the rich history of baseball in Montreal, the Expos are now gone and the Canadiens are a dynasty in memory only. Thanks Mordecai for a great collection and your total rejection of political correctness. "He might be gone now, but Mordecai Richler kept his eye on the ball until the end." The Globe and Mail Mordecai Richler died on July 3, 2001.

Witty and perceptive essays by a sports-obsessed, world-renowned novelist.

From the Back Cover Between such novels as *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, *St. Urbain's Horseman*, and *Barney's Version*, Mordecai Richler pursued his obsession with sports - and he wrote brilliantly about such sports as ice hockey, baseball, salmon fishing, bodybuilding, and wrestling. His essays and articles appeared in such prominent and diverse places as *GQ*, *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Inside Sports*, *Commentary*, and *The New York of Books*. Richler spent time with Pete Rose, Wayne Gretzky, and Gordie Howe (when a reporter asked Gordie's then eighty-year-old father if he was still interested in sex, Howe's père replied, "You'll have to ask somebody older than me.") He traveled with Guy LaFleur's Montreal Canadiens, and with the Trail Smoke-Eaters to Stockholm, for the world hockey championships. When a Swedish reporter confronted the Smoke-Eaters' coach and accused him of encouraging violence on the ice, the enraged coach replied, "But I condone it absolutely." There are shrewdly perceptive pieces here about Sandy Koufax, Hank Greenberg, and lady umpires, and a marvelous essay on Richler's unlimited enthusiasm for the all-inclusive *Encyclopedia of Jews in Sports*, which includes among its champions one Steve Allan Hertz, an infielder who played a total of five games in Houston in 1964 and had a batting average of .000. This then is a superb novelist writing unforgettably about his obsession with sports. The work sparkles with Richler's hallmark irony, wit, and shrewd perception. It is a book no sports - or Richler - fan will want to miss.