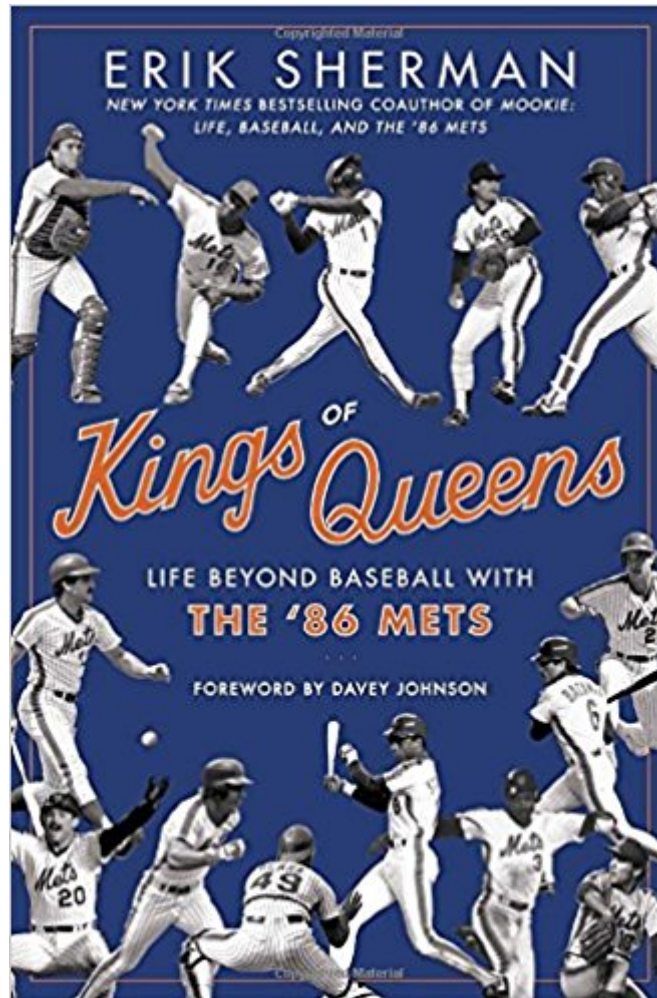




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Kings Of Queens: Life Beyond Baseball With The '86 Mets



Synopsis

In 1986, the bad guys of baseball won the World Series. Now, Erik Sherman, the New York Times bestselling coauthor of *Mookie*, profiles key players from that infamous Mets team, revealing never-before-exposed details about their lives after that championship year—*as well as a look back at the magical season itself.* Darryl Strawberry, Doc Gooden, Keith Hernandez, Lenny Dykstra, Mookie Wilson, Howard Johnson, Doug Sisk, Rafael Santana, Bobby Ojeda, Wally Backman, Kevin Mitchell, Ed Hearn, Danny Heep, and the late Gary Carter were all known for their heroics on the field. For some of them—known as the “Scum Bunch”—their debauchery off the field was even more awe-inspiring. But when that golden season ended, so did their aura of invincibility. Some faced battles with addiction, some were traded, and others struggled just to keep their lives together. Through interviews with these legendary players, Erik Sherman offers fans a new perspective on a team that will forever be remembered in sports history. **INCLUDES PHOTOS**

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Erik Sherman's breezy, absorbing meet-up with the members of the 1986 New York Mets makes for a beautiful trip down memory lane. An absolute joy." —Jeff Pearlman, New York Times bestselling author of *The Bad Guys Won!* "Decades past their glory days, the 1986 Mets are still amazing in their power to inspire. Erik Sherman captures these heroes past their prime in a beautiful collection of portraits, proving that these Mets were once the kings of queens and they're still the kings of hearts." —Jonathan Eig, author of *Luckiest Man* and *Opening Day*

“The Mets of the eighties had the walk and talk to own New York...and they did!” — Tim McCarver, longtime Mets broadcaster and recipient of the 2012 Ford C. Frick Award

“If you are lucky enough to have been born a Mets fan, or to have converted into one, you will find this book to be full of treasures.” — Kostya Kennedy, Senior Editor of Sports Illustrated and New York Times bestselling author of 56: Joe DiMaggio and the Last Magic Number in Sports and Pete Rose: An American Dilemma

“Don’t confuse this with a Where Are They Now? This is about How Are They Now Doing — from Straw to Doc to Doug Sisk — catching up with the 1986 Mets much like Roger Kahn once caught up with the Dodgers Boys of Summer.” — Kevin Kernan, the New York Post

“A series of revealing retrospectives from many of the key performers of that memorable and, at least in New York, beloved ball club.” — Howie Rose, Broadcaster, New York Mets, WOR Radio 710 AM

“Erik Sherman visits with this remarkable cast of characters to put the impact of the ’86 Mets in perspective. An important book about an important team.” — Marty Appel, author of Pinstripe Empire and Munson

Erik Sherman has been a freelance sportswriter in the New York area since 1980. He is also a coauthor of *Out at Home: The True Story of Glenn Burke, Baseball’s First Openly Gay Player*; *Mookie: Life, Baseball, and the 1986 Mets*; and *Steve Blass: A Pirate for Life*.

A lot of the stories from Doc, Darryl, Mookie and Lenny are not necessarily new, but always fun to read, and interesting to hear their first hand perspective as well as more about what they are up to now. The real win here is hearing from guys like Sisk, Heep, Mitchell, Santana and others who don’t get nearly as much exposure or credit. Both their past and their present make for fascinating reading. And the chapter with Carter’s wife serves as a perfect ending. The only drawbacks are that there is some repetition in stories, and a few of the “where are they now’s” are a little depressing, but overall, this is a great way to kick off the 2016 baseball season

I grew up a Red Sox fan in upstate New York, which meant I heard a lot of verbal abuse about my team from Yankee and Mets fans alike, especially in 1986 when Bill Buckner — we’re not going to discuss that. My brother Bill, who was a big fan of the Mets — catcher Gary Carter, particularly enjoyed ribbing me about the rivalry. But when I picked up Erik Sherman’s latest book *The King of Queens: Life*

Beyond Baseball with Sherman, I got a glimpse into the lives of the men whose skills on the baseball diamond encouraged my brother to taunt me throughout the late 80s. Sherman's book is divided into chapters that discuss what current life is like for different players who were a part of the 1986 World Series championship team. Sherman starts with Dwight Gooden, who was on the fast track to the Baseball Hall of Fame until cocaine and alcohol abuse derailed his career. Despite throwing a no-hitter with the New York Yankees in the mid-90s, and finishing with 200 career wins, Sherman discusses how Gooden felt he could have had 300 wins if he'd stayed out of the trouble that often interrupted his greatness. I was particularly moved by Sherman's ability to get players like Gooden to open up about issues that most people would consider private, but he does it without humiliating the subject while simultaneously allowing the subject to take ownership over his response. Sherman also talks to players like Lenny Dykstra, who faced his own share of problems with bankruptcy, as well as Kevin Mitchell, whose temper often kept many of his teammates on edge. We also get to meet Ed Hearn again, whose chronic pain almost led him to take his own life, only to overcome depression to become one of the country's most renowned motivational speakers. I was deeply moved by Sherman's portrayal of Hearn, especially when the author describes a connection between Hearn and Jackie Robinson told towards the end of the chapter. Hearn told Sherman, "As the legendary Jackie Robinson once said, 'A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.' Because, Erik, after going from the penthouse to the outhouse and back, it's the back that truly matters to me the most, and hopefully to others." It's these anecdotes that bring Sherman's book to life, keeping its readers wanting more. Finally, Erik discusses Darryl Strawberry and how, like Dwight Gooden, has worked hard to overcome his own drug addiction. He now works as a Christian minister. Sherman's book is one of the more important ones to come out this year because it not only brings back the glory days of the Amazing Mets and what they did to come back and win the World Series in 1986 (Thirty years later those words still hurt to write!). Sherman not only recounts vivid details of that series, but he draws distinct and relevant parallels between each player's career and personal life, and why it matters today. While Roger Kahn's *The Boys of Summer* stands as the definitive narrative that paints a portrait of players' lives years after retirement, Sherman's *The Kings of Summer* will bring joy and warmth to those who also have a copy of Kahn's masterpiece on their shelves.

I remember so vividly watching the 1986 World Series as a college student in Boston. Of course, I knew of the talent, guts and hard work of the New York Mets on the field. Author Erik Sherman was able to dig deep, and bring out so much I didn't know about many of the key players on the '86 team, what they went through, both good and bad, as ballplayers on and off the field, and what their lives have been like since their playing days ended. The interviews are so open and honest, giving insight to these people as not just former ballplayers, but as human beings. My favorite is with Lenny Dykstra, who pulls no punches! All of the interviews are terrific and thought provoking. I may even pick up the audio version too! Kudos to Mr. Sherman!

This was a great book in that it differs from the usual 1986 Mets-related books and delves into the current lives of many of the key players rather than tell the same story of each game. Very unique in that regards. I highly recommend this for any Mets fan, whether old enough to have been there or part of the newer generation of Mets fan for the historical value.

What book , I feel like a kid at the movies and in walk the actors to tell me how they made the movie ! 86 was for me a very special year , I had been a faithful fan since 1967 , i was all of 5 when i saw my first game . I love my team and i have shed tears i stood out side the stadiume with ball and glove in habd to get an authogrhoa cy

As a Mets fan since their inception it was a joy to return to the 1986 season and those players who won that World Series. Some wonderful stories as well as sad but a good read for Met fans.

great book. a must read for any baseball fan. mr. sherman takes you back in time to 1986. the profiles of the lives of key players since the championship season is riveting. a modern day "the boys of summer".

just read the first few chapters and love it already. Interesting interviews and candid comments and insights from the baseball stars we Mets fans rooted for during that brilliant season.

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