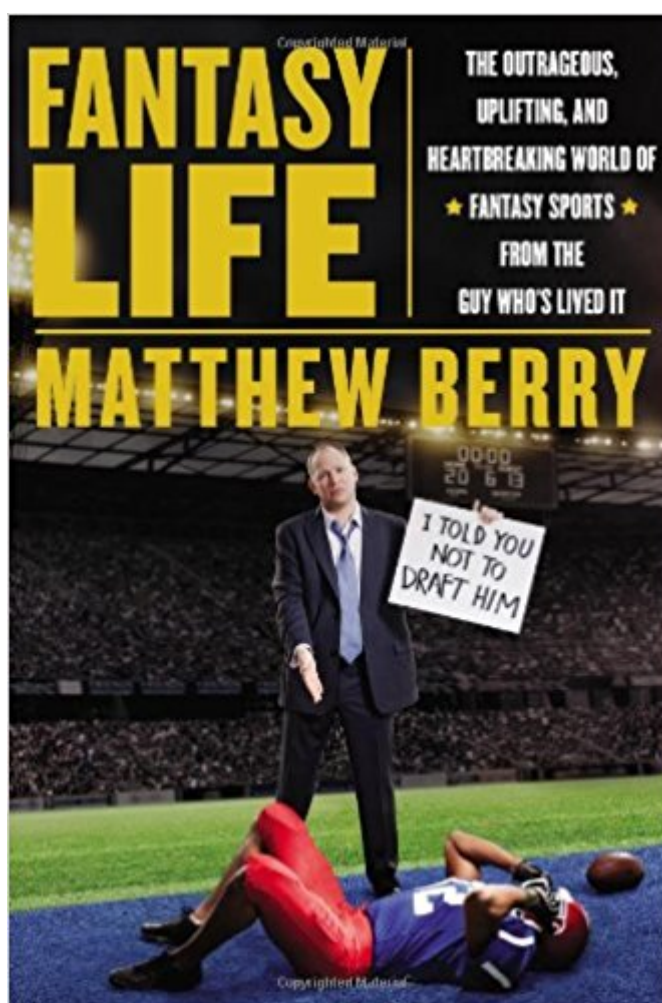


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# Fantasy Life: The Outrageous, Uplifting, And Heartbreaking World Of Fantasy Sports From The Guy Who's Lived It



## Synopsis

Now a New York Times bestseller! Fantasy football, fantasy baseball, fantasy basketball, even fantasy sumo wrestling: the world of fantasy sports is huge, and still growing. Today, more than 35 million people in the United States and Canada spend hours upon hours each week on their fantasy sports teams. And as the Senior Fantasy Sports Analyst for ESPN, Matthew Berry is on the front lines of what has grown from a niche subculture into a national pastime. In *Fantasy Life*, Berry celebrates every aspect of the fantasy sports world. Brilliant trash talk. Unbelievable trophies. Insane draft day locations. Shake-your-head-in-disbelief punishments. Ingenious attempts at cheating. And surprisingly uplifting stories that remind us why we play these games in the first place. Written with the same award-winning style that has made Berry one of the most popular columnists on ESPN.com, *Fantasy Life* is a book for both hard-core fantasy players and people who have never played before. Between tales of love and hate, birth and death, tattoos and furry animal costumes, the White House Situation Room and a 126-pound golden pelican, Matthew chronicles his journey from a fourteen-year-old fantasy player to the face of fantasy sports for the largest sports media company in the world. Fantasy will save your life. Fantasy will set you free. And fantasy life is most definitely better than real life. You'll see.

## Book Information

Series: Fantasy Life Matthew Berry

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Riverhead Books (July 16, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594486255

ISBN-13: 978-1594486258

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 305 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #451,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Fantasy Sports #713 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Football (American)

## Customer Reviews

"An utterly hilarious romp through a wacky, yet occasionally poignant universe that runs parallel to reality as told by someone who's struggled to find his way in both...If you're already one

of the 36 million who do play, the book will make you laugh out loud, pump your fist in agreement and shake your head in sympathy. If you don't play, this book is a great way to find out what all the fuss is about." - USA Today

"As a longtime fan of Matthew Berry, I'm happy he's finally collected the most inane and hilarious things people will do in pursuit of fantasy glory. If I was in a fantasy league where you drafted people who write about fantasy leagues I would draft Matthew first. Also, I would need to make some major changes in my life." - Seth Meyers, Saturday Night Live Head Writer and three-time fantasy champion in a league you don't care about

"You don't have to play fantasy sports to enjoy Matthew Berry's Fantasy Life. You don't even need to be a sports fan. If you like great writing, if you appreciate irreverent humor, if stories about friendship, family, backstabbing, and regrettable Justin Bieber tattoos warm your heart, you'll love this book." - Harlan Coben, #1 New York Times bestselling author

"I am a bad fantasy football player and worse fantasy baseballer. I am heartened after reading Fantasy Life that this apparently does not matter. Matthew Berry's book proves that there are lots of people out there like us: people who don't use fantasy sports to escape from life, but rather to live it with more fun." - Peter King, Senior Writer, Sports Illustrated, and owner, Montclair Pedroias New Jersey Suburban League

"I don't care about fantasy sports, and unless it involves a player shooting another player on the field like in The Last Boy Scout, I don't want to hear any stupid fantasy stories. But Matthew Berry did the impossible: He wrote a book about fantasy football that was hilarious and interesting to people who don't even like fantasy football. I loved this book." - Tucker Max, #1 New York Times bestselling author of I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell

"Football can be broken down into X's and O's, but at the end of the day, we're all after drama, human interest, and a great story. Matthew Berry's Fantasy Life is a great story. I know sports can make a difference in people's lives; Matthew Berry has shown that fantasy sports can, too." - Ron Jaworski, ESPN NFL Analyst, and proud owner of multiple fantasy championships under the name "Jawbreaker"

"If I had to choose between playing real football and fantasy football, I honestly don't know what I'd choose. (Just kidding.) For players like me, fantasy sports are an obsession, an escape, and a great opportunity to trash talk each other. Matthew Berry is THE guy (other than me) everyone listens to and texts for advice during drafts. Fantasy Life is a must-read for fantasy sports fans, athletes, and anyone who loves ridiculous stories" Maurice Jones-Drew, All Pro NFL running back, host of "Running with MJD" on SiriusXM Fantasy Sports Radio

"For those of us who compete in fantasy sports, it's a fraternity. And this book IS fantasy sports. It covers the highs and lows, the good and bad, in victory

and in defeat. And it's told by the only man who could tell it: Matthew Berry, the Talented Mr. Roto himself. Dale Earnhardt, Jr., NASCAR driver and 12-team "Dirty Mo Posse" league champion. "I was excited to see that Matthew was writing a book about fantasy sports. As a pro athlete I've seen fantasy sports blow up in the last 10 years, and he's been in the middle of all of it. Thank you, Matthew Berry, for writing such a funny book and for being my personal consultant for the Cardinals fantasy football league. - Matt Holliday, All-Star Outfielder, St. Louis Cardinals

"Matthew Berry has gleefully documented everything that is so great about fantasy sports - the celebrations and the punishments, the conniving and backstabbing, the agony and the ecstasy. He's got an amazing story for any situation you find yourself in. It's the Kama Sutra of fantasy. If you've ever watched The League, you will love this book. Matthew shows in hilarious fashion that fantasy is like life - just better. - Jackie and Jeff Schaffer, Creators of The League

"One of the people who makes it so much easier for you to enjoy success in fantasy sports now explains why we all enjoy playing fantasy sports. Draft this book early in your first round. Keith Olbermann, four-time New York Times bestselling author, nine-time fantasy baseball pennant winner

"Matthew Berry's personal journey in fantasy football is a lesson in a reality of life. Now, you can separate fantasy from reality in a fascinating read." - Chris Mortensen, ESPN Senior NFL Insider and "always in the money!"

"Matthew Berry's Fantasy Life is touching, gripping, addicting. There's nothing like it." Adam Schefter, ESPN NFL Insider

"Is there anyone that still thinks fantasy-baseball players are some sort of niche, Trekkie sect? Countless Major League players admit themselves to playing the game, and the web hasn't only mainstreamed it, it has turned it into a multi-million-dollar business. At this point, we'd say more sports fans know who Matthew Berry is than know most of the players on his team." - New York Magazine

Universally regarded as one of the leading voices on fantasy sports, Matthew Berry is ESPN's Senior Fantasy Sports Analyst. Known as the "Talented Mr. Roto," he's an Emmy winner for his work on ESPN2's Fantasy Football Now. As one of the most popular columnists and podcasters on ESPN.com, he appears regularly on ESPN television and radio shows, including Sunday NFL Countdown, SportsCenter, and NFL Live. He is one of only four people to be in the Hall of Fame of both the Fantasy Sports Trade Association and the Fantasy Sports Writers Association.

This book was recommended to me by a friend since I was getting into fantasy sports, so I decided

to give it a read. Now in full disclosure I got the audiobook version of this book. I believe the author Matthew Berry read this book and his voice was the perfect voice for this book. This book talks about fantasy sports and the stories that common people have when playing fantasy sports. This is not a book of tips about playing daily and/or season long fantasy sports, but about the successes, failures, and struggles that people have playing fantasy. Many of the stories are very funny while others are serious as well as some that are life threatening. The combination of the different stories reminded me of the show The League on FX. This book was a breath of fresh air to know that many people play fantasy sports and have stories about people coming together for an event. I highly recommend this book for fantasy sport lovers in your family. I will even recommend this for non fantasy sports lovers because of the brotherhood or sisterhood that it provides.

This book is not just about fantasy sports. It's about life. It's about a man and his perilous journey to change the face of the sports world permanently through fantasy. It's about victory and defeat. It's about bringing together the most unlikely of people to bond over imaginary teams; celebrating and trash talking for victors, moaning, griping, and girly tattoo's for the losers. (Click past the break). Berry weaves a wonderful web of stories that will reach deep into your soul and inspire you to grab your very first fantasy team. As he tells his own tale of climbing from the plains of Hollywood treachery to the mountain top of becoming the Senior Fantasy Analyst at ESPN he shares stories of average Joes that are instantly relate-able. Chapters like "The Top 20 Most Soul-Crushing Ways to Lose" and "No one Seems to Realize That Adrian Peterson Isn't a Parishioner" will have people staring at you as you laugh out loud from Berry's great wit and humor. To my friends who don't watch Rated-R movies: There are a few portions of the book that are sexual or derogatory. I wouldn't say this is a Rated-R book, but Berry isn't trying to offend anyone; he's simply sharing true stories from fantasy players across the globe. With that said, I need to go pre-order my own (hard) copy. Fantasy Baseball is mid-season and I am in 4th, just a few games out of first and Fantasy Football is right around the corner! Thanks Mr. Berry for this book, and for sharing all those great fantasy sports moments. I know I'll be a better player and commissioner because of it. Read this review and more at [justinmederich.com](http://justinmederich.com)

Mathew Berry TMR, is arguably one of the pioneers of fantasy sports in the mainstream. Admittedly, I purchased this book to get some fantasy advice and that is not really the purpose of the book. In fact, that is not the purpose of this book AT ALL. But after reading the first chapter you'll be hooked. Berry goes through different anecdotes both from his own life and other fantasy players from

different walks of life. He takes you through the progression and evolution of fantasy sports. Great Read!

I really enjoyed reading Berry's book. You get a whole new view of his life that you don't get from ESPN tv or his podcasts. By the way if you don't listen to his podcast, Fantasy Football Now, do it. Now I take on the difficult task of trying to get my wife to read this book!

A must have for any fantasy sports player. I have listened to Matthew berry for years on his Fantasy Focus podcast and this book was a very light and fun read to add to my fantasy obsession. The stories in this book really show you how fantasy players come from all walks of life and this book sheds some light into the obsession that has started to sweep the nation in the past few years. This could be a great Christmas present to the fantasy player in your life or could help you to understand what fantasy sports are all about. The book is written as a collection of stories which all help to tell Matthew's extraordinary life and has plenty of humor throughout. Highly recommended.

I read Matthew Berry's columns every week of the fantasy football season and enjoy them thoroughly. I also follow him on twitter, check out many of his appearances on ESPN and listen to his 06010 Fantasy Focus Football podcast religiously. So I'm a little biased. While the book is by no means a great piece of literature its a strong and fun collection of storytelling about Mr. Berry's and others' experiences with fantasy sports. It's easy to read and especially nice over the summer (when I read it) as the fantasy football season is approaching. If you're someone who enjoys the TV show The League (which generated my interest in fantasy sports in the first place) you'll definitely enjoy this book. If you enjoy playing fantasy sports many of the stories will resonate with you. What I liked best about the book though was its autobiographical features. As someone who engages with a great deal of Mr. Berry's content (although admittedly for me it was kind of in reverse - I'd read his articles prior to buying the book but listened to his podcasts avidly only after) it was really nice to learn about his story and how he got into the business in the first place. It's really nice to know all about where he's coming from when you read his stuff or listen to his commentary and humor on the 06010.

While there are lots of laughs in this book, I especially enjoyed that he was so open and honest with his life. It's never too late to start over. He proves it.

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