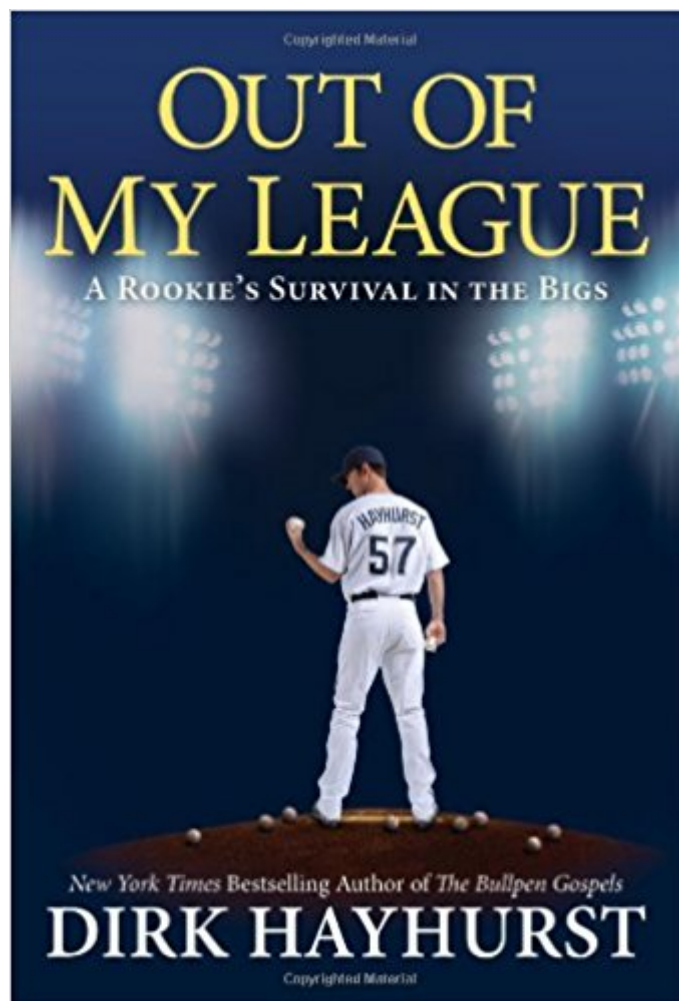


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Out Of My League: A Rookie's Survival In The Bigs



Synopsis

"Dirk Hayhurst writes about baseball in a unique way. Observant, insightful, human, and hilarious."
--Bob Costas- "Even more than he did in *The Bullpen Gospels*, Dirk Hayhurst teaches us here what happens when a 'dream career' collides with reality. There is such universality in his struggles, that if by the book's end you don't become him in your mind, there's probably something wrong with your heart.Â This book shows why baseball is so often used as a metaphor for life." --Keith Olbermann "Not many pitchers have replaced future Hall of Famer Greg Maddux. Only one has written a delightful book about it.Â This isn't the story of any old Triple-A veteran trying to finally reach the majors. This is the story of Dirk Hayhurst finally reaching the majors. Which makes the story worth reading."--Rob Neyer, *Sports Nation* "Hayhurst has done it again... Turns out he's a starter and a closer." --Tim Kurkjian, *ESPN* "A stirring, revealing tale of humanity." --Ken Rosenthal, *Fox Sports* "Gripping, revealing--and not at all what you'd expect." --Tyler Kepner, *The New York Times* "With razor-sharp wit and keen observational powers, Dirk Hayhurst delivers a rare gem of a baseball book. *Out of My League* captures both the joy and the toll of becoming a big leaguer unlike anything else before it."--Tom Verducci, *Sports Illustrated* - "Hilarious, illuminating and poignant...This is more than a baseball book. It's the story of a man learning that it's possible to grip a baseball without it gripping him." --Craig Calcaterra, *NBC Sports.com* "Hayhurst has done it again...If only I could pitch as well as he can write, I might have more Cy Youngs than Greg Maddux." --Jayson Stark, *ESPN.com* "Memorable... Hayhurst delivers an entertaining story for more than just sports fans. This is about life, relationships and the sacrifices made to pursue a dream" --Jordan Bastian, *MLB.com* "Funny, earthy, touching. Dirk finally makes it to a big-league mound, but as a writer, he's been throwing strikes in the Show for a while now, and *'Out of My League'* is another quality start." --King Kaufman, *Bleacher Report* "The most candid portrayal of life as a professional athlete I've ever seen." --Michael Dolan, *Editor-in-Chief, Athletes Quarterly* "It's never too inside baseball, even though it is literally from inside baseball." --John Manuel, *Editor, Baseball America* "Dirk is a good friend who has never been afraid to tell it like it is. He has a genuine gift for telling the stories of his life in such a way that they reveal profound truths. I find his writing both entertaining and thought provoking... unlike his fastball." --Ben Zobrist, *Tampa Bay Rays All-Star* "Baseball is a game governed by countless rules, none bigger than this one: Don't over think it. Dirk Hayhurst takes us down the rabbit hole that is his mind, to a place where that rule is constantly violated, every decision, every move, every breath over thought. In the process, he provides a brutally honest take on life in the majors--the oversized ballparks, hotel rooms, and personalities, but also the self-doubt, loneliness, and despair.

I laughed, I cried, I even learned how to doctor a baseball." --Jonah Keri, author of The Extra 2%
"Compulsively readable and enjoyable...Apparently, it's not enough for Hayhurst to be a major league pitcher; he has to be a fantastic writer, too." --Matt Fraction, Marvel Comics

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Dirk Hayhurst writes about baseball in a unique way. Observant, insightful, human, and hilarious."--Bob Costas "With razor-sharp wit and keen observational powers, Dirk Hayhurst delivers a rare gem of a baseball book. Out of My League captures both the joy and the toll of becoming a big leaguer unlike anything else before it."--Tom Verducci, Sports Illustrated "This book shows why baseball is so often used as a metaphor for life."--Keith Olbermann

Dirk Hayhurst.--The Person.Born in Canton, Ohio in 1981, Dirk grew up in the small town area of Canton South where he attended Canton South high school, home of the Wildcats. Though Dirk now makes his home in Hudson, Ohio with his wife, Bonnie, Dirk's family remains in Canton South. Dirk holds a degree in communication studies from Kent State University, where he is also a member of the athletic hall of fame. --The Player.Dirk was drafted by the San Diego Padres in the 8th round of the 2003 amateur player draft. He signed as a senior in college at Kent State University, put his communication degree on hold, and set off to the fabled Northwest League to become a mighty Eugene Emerald.After 6 years of toiling in the minors, playing for the Eugene Emeralds, Fort Wayne Wizards, Lake Elsinore Storm, Mobile BayBears, San Antonio Missions, and Portland Beavers, Dirk emerged in the big leagues with San Diego to start against the San Francisco

Giants on August, 23, 2008. His performance in that start was unremarkable, but the story between the two aforementioned dates is not, and is detailed in his 2 books, *The Bullpen Gospels*, and *Out Of My League*. --The Writer. Dirk's first book, *The Bullpen Gospels*, came out on March 30, 2010 and was met with a surge of acclaim from all manner of key figures, such as Keith Olbermann, Bob Costas, Jayson Stark, Tim McCarver, Tom Verducci, and several esteemed print sources like, *The New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Boston Globe*, and the list goes on. You can read more reviews about Dirk's book on the Book's page, or order it at all fine book sellers. Dirk second book, *OUT OF MY LEAGUE* is slated to hit shelves in 2012, and it the story of how Dirk made it to the Big Leagues for the first time, and all the the trials and tribulations that came with it.

Dirk Hayhurst has taken us behind the scenes in his latest book, *Out of My League*, and shed light on the difficult struggle of a ball player who has worked his way through the minors in hopes of one day making it to the big leagues. The book is equally funny, honest and insightful. You will laugh out loud at some of the stories Hayhurst retells. Stories about his offseason relationship with his grandma, getting hit on by transvestites while on the road, and many of the rookie hazing moments he goes through when he finally reaches the big leagues. Even with all the funny moments, and there are plenty of them, this book focuses on so much more. The reality and struggle of what a fringe prospect goes through. Baseball is a sport that is marked by failure. Players will always fail more often than they succeed. These failures can weigh heavily on a players psyche and in turn make them even worse as a player. It is a struggle to overcome these overwhelming obstacles and find success in a sport where the odds are stacked against you. Hayhurst takes us behind the curtain and sheds light what it is like to be an actual baseball player and what runs through their minds in many of these types of situations. Baseball, even with all its benefits, can be a serious grind for its players forcing them to sometimes wonder if making it to the show is worth it or not. Hayhurst openly talks about many of these struggles that he faced throughout his 6 years in the minors en route to his first appearance in the majors. What I love most about this book is the honest approach it takes to what life is like for a major league player. So often in movies and books that talk about this subject, we see the athletic side of life being glorified, but we fail to see a lot of the real struggles and doubts that are also a part of being a professional athlete. Living up to 6 or 7 figure contracts are not as easy as it would seem. We want this dream of becoming a professional athlete to be glorified. We want to dream that if, by some miracle, we were to be in these players shoes, everything would work out for us in our own lives. The reality is that it isn't easy and if we were in their shoes, we might think differently about what it is we want to do with our lives. Don't get me

wrong; this book isn't about feeling sorry for a major leaguer who is having a tough time. What it does do however is paint a complete picture of what life at the major league level is really like. There is both good and bad that comes with being at that level and we, the reader are shown what it really is like. The other thing that makes me appreciate the book is that it helped shed light on the human nature side of baseball. Ever since Moneyball came out, stat heads have had an increasingly bigger and bigger impact on the game trying to make the way we look at the game as precise and scientific as possible. What has gotten lost in all of these stats is that what we are dealing with is human beings. Sure certain players and their stats have been incredibly predictable through the years but that doesn't mean they aren't robots. Hayhurst has helped shed light on what goes on behind all this and what can affect a player during his ups and downs throughout the season. If you would like to get a picture of what being a professional baseball player is like I can't recommend this book enough. Between this book and his first, The Bullpen Gospels, an equally compelling and well written book that focuses more on what life is like in the minors, you won't get a better picture of what life in the world of professional baseball is really like. (This is an excerpt from a review I wrote for my website)

This is a great look at the trials and tribulations of a 6 year minor league player trying to make the big leagues. It is a good look at how hard minor league playing can be. Poor pay, bad hotels, little meal money, hard travel, insane playing conditions, insane teammates and more. The comparison between the minors and the majors in all things is like night and day. The decisions Hayhurst makes concerning playing or not playing his second guessing himself and his interior conversations is all very interesting. On top all this throw in meeting the women of his dreams and wanting to marry her, his dysfunctional family, and his crazy grandmother whom he lives with is all very entertaining. This book is by turns funny, sad, depressing, and poignant. It shows that making the bigs is one thing staying there is another. It is a great look at behind the scenes. This is a very entertaining book and if you like baseball and human relations with warts and all you will love this book. I intend to read more of Hayhursts books. More Please. Papa Place

As a fan of baseball, I have always been interested in a day-in-the life of minor leaguers and big leaguers. This book reveals thoughtful observations and insight into that process for one player, working hard to make it to the big leagues. Even if you're a casual fan of the game, I would recommend this book for it's look into the mundane, non-baseball factors that players have to deal with while trying daily to prove they belong and strive to move to the next level. Poignant and

vulnerable moments and interesting philosophical thoughts are scattered in between entertaining dialogue and game play descriptions. Looking forward to reading other books by Hayhurst.

Hayhurst bravely lays bare his life again in his second book. The raw difficulties of the reality of struggling for a career in baseball (while dealing with a dysfunctional family) comes through strongly, as it did in his first book (*The Bullpen Gospels*). As a baseball fan, I'm left with the unfortunate feeling that some of my major league baseball "heroes" are probably not all saints, but that many are as flawed and selfish as the rest of any cross-section of society. Which shouldn't be surprising, but is a bit jarring when contrasted with the impression you've probably been sold by the MLB marketing machine your whole life. And the minor leaguers and fringe players are just pawns in the machine. The strongest part of the book for me was the chapter when he broke down with his wife in his fancy hotel room after another poor outing - he does an effective job of painting the picture of his ever-growing anxiety and anger over his pitching struggles leading up to this point, and how it came close to changing what kind of person he is. The only reason I give 4/5 instead of 5 was because the first half of the book was a little slow, and a bit too similar to his first book. I understand his intent to provide a chronology of his whole season, but the novelty of the day-to-day minor league activities to us outsiders was not as compelling the second time around.

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