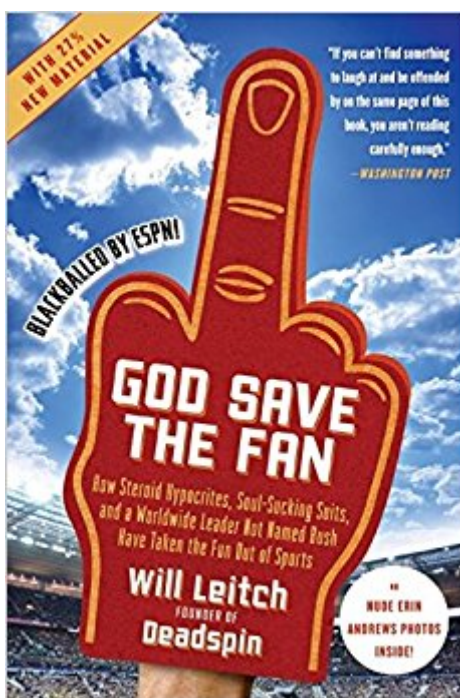


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# God Save The Fan: How Steroid Hypocrites, Soul-Sucking Suits, And A Worldwide Leader Not Named Bush Have Taken The Fun Out Of Sports



## Synopsis

Arch and unrepentant, Will Leitch, founding editor of Deadspin.com, is the mouthpiece for all the frustrated fans who just want their games back from big money, bloated egos, and blathering sportscasters. Always a fan first and a sportswriter second, Leitch considers the perfection of fantasy leagues and the meaninglessness of the steroids debate as he exposes Olympic fetishes, parses Shaq's rap attack on Kobe, shares a brew with John Rocker and his surprising girlfriend, and reveals what ESPN and the beer companies really think about you. If you or a fan you love is suffering from a sense of listless dissatisfaction brought on by the leagues and networks, *God Save the Fan* is your new manifesto.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In his third book, Leitch, the founding editor of the sports blog Deadspin.com, offers a collection of passionate, original essays about the good (fantasy football; the saga of the once promising pitcher Rick Ankiel) and the bad (ESPN, which he compares to the Imperial Forces from Star Wars; sports reporters' misguided attempts to become patriotic after 9/11) of sports, and how fans can navigate through the mess to enjoy the games and themselves. If we all realized that, hey, we don't need to listen to these idiots on television screaming at us... they'd be out of a job, Leitch writes in the introduction. The book sometimes strays off course from its stated purpose—memories of Leitch's popular blog subjects (Barbaro, Ohio TV reporter Carl Monday) and a host of cheeky sports glossaries are unnecessary and only disrupt the book's fervor. However, Leitch (who has also written for Playboy and New York) nicely balances potent humor with sharp and sometimes vicious

insight without lapsing into clichés. He manages to be an astute sports critic while maintaining his enthusiasm as a fan, making his book an entertaining and enlightening read for anyone who roots for the home team a little too hard. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

â œIf you canâ™t find something to laugh at and be offended by on the same page of this book, you arenâ™t reading carefully enough.â • (Washington Post Book World)â œR-rated, spectacularly irreverent, often mean and just as often piercingly insightfulâ • (Newsday)â œA witty poke in the eye to the entire sports-industrial complex...A fanfare for the common fan and, if youâ™re stuck in the cheap seats, easier to read than a website.â • (Sports Illustrated)â œLeitch balances potent humor with sharp and sometimes vicious insight without lapsing into clichés. He manages to be an astute sports critic while maintaining his enthusiasm as a fan, making his book an entertaining and enlightening read for anyone who roots for the home team a little too hard.â • (Publishers Weekly)â œIf the truth is to be found in humor - and it is - then let Will Leitch lead our peopleâ™s revolution. Heâ™s everything thatâ™s right and funny and true in American sports.â • (Jeff MacGregor, Sports Illustrated special contributor and author of Sunday Money)â œThe funniest sports book I have ever read. Yeah, as a member of the mainstream media I should probably despise Will Leitch. But God Saves the Fan is an uproarious, painful, pointed, skittish manifesto on all thatâ™s warped in the world of Lucious Pusey.â • (Jeff Pearlman, New York Times bestselling author of The Bad Guys Won!)

We start with the sports Web site, "Deadspin."It's a little difficult to describe, but worth a try. It's a collection of items from the sports world, some from other sources, some original.Taking a typical day in the life, items were posted at the time of this book's publication on the NCAA basketball tournament, Ichiro's hitting problems, Bob Knight's TV debut, and an error on George Mason's conference championship T-shirts that puts the team on the road to New Orleans ... although the Final Four is in San Antonio. Oops.In other words, there's a lot of material that's not exactly in the daily newspaper. But it's still of interest to many sports fans.Will Leitch was the first creative mind behind Deadspin. You has managed to make a living out of this, no doubt surprising him a bit. It's an obvious jump from Web site to book, and Leitch pulled it off. He's written "God Save the Fan."This is subtitled (I hope the Internet is big enough for this), "How Preening Sportscasters, Athletes Who Speak in the Third Person, and the Occasional Convicted Quarterback Have Taken the Fun Out of Sports (and How We Can Get It Back)." Wow. I've read shorter books than

that. While this is billed as a fan's manifesto of some sort, it's basically Leitch sitting down and writing about various topics in sports. He's good enough to make it work, too. The surprising part, perhaps, is that Leitch is surprisingly thoughtful in portions of this book. Ever think about the nature of rooting for a team after it moves? The purity of fantasy sports? Athletes who talk about religion after victories? Leitch has. He even sat down and has a relatively serious conversation with John Rucker. That's no small accomplishment, even if alcohol was involved on all sides. Don't worry. There's plenty of funny stuff here -- tales of drunken athletes and stupid owners and fans who send get-well messages to horses and columnists who write about their daughter's softball team and so on. Leitch has developed a nice network of sources, so all sorts of silly behavior gets exposed. "God Save the Fan" probably could have used a little more editing -- there are some redundancies that pop up along the way, particularly in the glossy section. And I'm not sure what the story about TV reporter Carl Monday is doing at the end of the owners' section -- although it's a pretty funny tale. I wouldn't say the book is for the very young or the very old, but those in-between will zip through this pretty quickly and have a lot of fun along the way. Just like "Deadspin."

It's not all brilliance and whatever, but it is funny and it is true. And the title of the book is exactly true that the fan is always the person getting screwed over. Obviously Will loves sports without abandon with all of the crap of the owners and players involved....you could call it stupidity, but he is hardly alone if it is and plus this book proves he fights back.

I meant to read this a year or so ago, but I was distracted by laundry and drinking. Regardless, it was a quick and easy read, enjoyable for any sports fan, unless they're employed by a certain sports network. But those people don't know how to read, so it's a moot point. Well worth the price and time spent flipping pages.

Will Leitch's book is a nice blend of laugh-out-loud satire, spoofs, and funny truth in the ridiculous, over-priced, ego-maniacal world of sports. The editor of the popular "Deadspin" blog is more than just funny, he's insightful. I really don't read "Deadspin" very often, but the cover and title of this book -- not the blog -- was what drew me to it. I'm a huge sports fan, but I'm so tired of the overflow of cash and ego that if pro sports ended tomorrow, I wouldn't care. Sadly, Division I college sports now just mirrors professional sports, they're just less honest about the money. I'd wished Leitch would've addressed the greed of college sports, but what the heck, he lives in New York City, the worst college sports city in America. He's a pro guy ... though his take on interviewing a former University

of Michigan basketball player was a complete riot. Fans can be pretty dumb, too, as Leitch points out in his take on Barbaro. The article and hilarious drawing of the horse was very funny. Some of Leitch's takes don't work -- does Scott Van Pelt's rejection of a date really need to be posted, is that news? Leitch found Van Pelt's phone message "humanizing." I found it boring. But Leitch is more often on target than not. And yeah, Chris Berman's "YWML" episode isn't news either, but if anyone needed to be a victim of "gotcha" journalism, it's Berman, who has become a caricature of himself. Yes, ESPN needed to be taken down a few notches and Leitch is just the guy to do it. A quick and funny read, I hope Leitch has another book on the way. Will there be a fan revolution? Nah, fans are too emotional and gullible. If the NY Giants said tomorrow that end zone seats were \$5,000 apiece, they'd get sold. Will ESPN's egos shrink? Are you kidding me? Leitch is a little too much of a believer in the fan revolution and not a realist. I see no uprising from fans. But hey, at least Leitch is trying, and having fun while doing it.

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