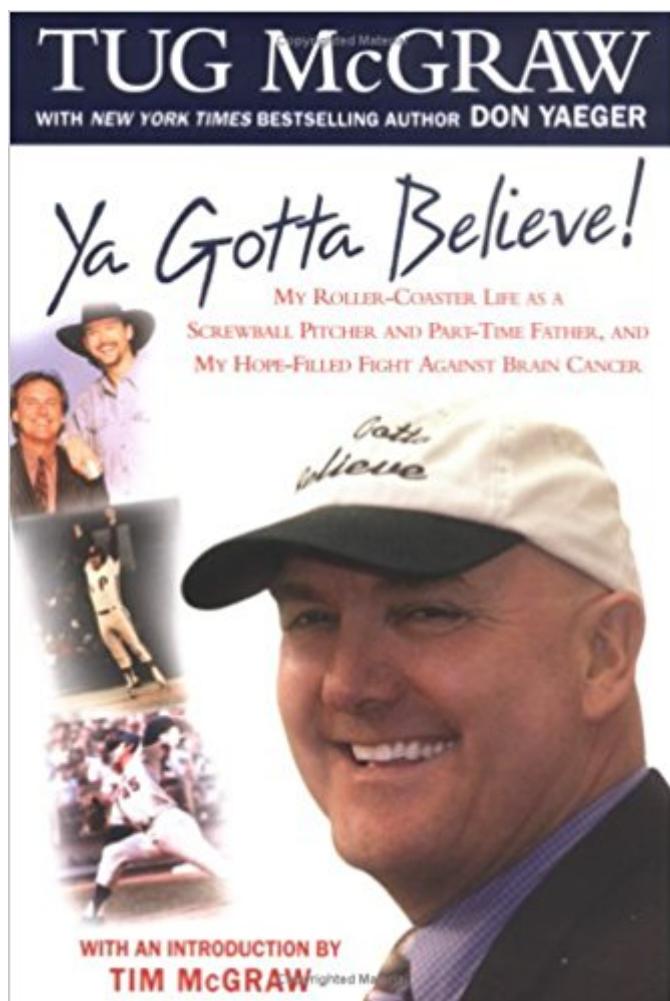


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# Ya Gotta Believe!: My Roller-Coaster Life As A Screwball Pitcher, And Part-Time Father, And My Hope-Filled Fight Against Brain Cancer





## **Synopsis**

Tug McGraw's "Ya Gotta Believe!" was the rallying cry of the 1973 New York Mets. But it was also the rallying cry of the boisterous left-handed relief pitcher who made millions of fans believe in the impossible, especially when-as a member of the Philadelphia Phillies-he struck out Kansas City's Willie Wilson to win the 1980 World Series. And when he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2003, it was the son he denied fathering for seventeen years who came to his rescue-country music star Tim McGraw. Tug was a man who would rise to fame, fall from grace, and become a champion not just in baseball, but in life. From Casey Stengel, Tom Terrific and the Amazin' Mets; to Lefty, Schmitty, and Pete Rose from the championship Phillies; to his return to baseball; to brain surgery and chemotherapy; Tug McGraw writes openly of his on-field triumphs and off-field antics, of family tragedy and financial problems, and what happens to a professional athlete when the cheering stops. Above all, he turns his no-holds-barred style on his cancer recovery and his ever-evolving relationship with Tim. It wasn't until his own American Dream threw him a curve that Tug began to understand that "Ya Gotta Believe."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

An amazing story (the title says it all) and a lasting legacy. -- Rocky Mountain News[The] humorous and heart-wrenching autobiography of the beloved and kookie Mets and Phillies closer. -- New York Daily News --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tug McGraw told his life story with real words and scenarios. I was not disappointed. My only regret

is that I never had the chance to meet Tug McGraw in person. Great story!

I love this book. He is so open in this book and so honest. It really made me love Tug McGraw even more. On another note: my package was damaged when I received it. I received it on time but it was dirty and banged up. Should have been send in a bubble wrap envelope.

i love tug mcgraw and really wanted to read this book. it wasn't at all what i expected. it seems to be very honest of tug's life and his relationships or denials of. parts of it had me really put-off , but by the end i was really glad i read it. seems like when he finally got his life together, it was close to being over. very sad! but it was a really good, honest book and i'm glad i purchased and read it!

As a baseball fan, country music lover, and a person with a brain tumor, I really liked this book. It was really interesting to read not only about Tug McGraw, but also about his relationship to his son, country music star Tim McGraw. The book makes you stop and think about the importance of family and relationships in your life.

Good book

It was a heart warming story of love lost and found, and the determination not to give up.

Very Emotional. I just couldn't believe how much he denied his oldest son. After all that emotional toll he put on his oldest son, he was the one there in the end for Tug. What an interesting turn of events. It does teach you to have a positive outlook on any type of disease they are thrown your way.

In 1973 "Ya Gotta Believe" became the rallying cry of the unlikely National League champions, the New York Mets. At the center of this unbelievable group of overachievers was the author of that expression, Tug McGraw. This phrase, which drove the Mets to within one game of winning the World Series would, ironically become his personal battle cry in his fight against cancer nearly thirty years later. McGraw speaks very candidly about his life in his autobiography, Ya Gotta Believe My Roller Coaster Life as a Screwball Pitcher and Part-time Father, and My Hope Filled Fight Against Brain Cancer. From his less than perfect upbringing, to his wild antics on and off the field, to his strained relationship with his oldest son, country music superstar Tim McGraw, he holds nothing back. He readily admits to the mistakes that he made during his life. To his credit McGraw was

attempting to make amends for his past indiscretions. Over the last several years he had established a relationship with Tim, whom he had previously not acknowledged as his son. Most important to Tug McGraw was trying to succeed as a father to his youngest son Matthew, something that he had not accomplished with his other three children. McGraw was also beginning to edge his way back in baseball, as a spring training coach for the Philadelphia Phillies. This job meant a bit more stability toward his financial stature, which like the other aspects of his life, were less than perfect. He was beginning to turn the corner and improving his life by healing relationships which he had previously damaged. That all changed in March of 2003. McGraw was diagnosed with brain cancer and given three weeks to live. It was then that "Ya Gotta Believe" took on a whole new meaning. Family, friends and former teammates rushed to his side as his trademark slogan became his inspirational motto as he took on the fiercest adversary that he had ever faced. The autobiography follows his life from growing up in California, through his rise to a Major League Baseball career, to his untimely death in January 2004. The book serves as a testimony of a man who accepted what was dealt to him and fought admirably to defeat the cancer that would eventually consume him. Most importantly the book is a testimony of the power of forgiveness. McGraw's children rushed to their father's side at his moment of need, forgetting his past indiscretions. Tim McGraw, now with the financial means to provide for his father, did so without reservation. How ironic for him to extend this to a man who refused to do this for him and ignored his existence. The book is enjoyable for not only baseball fans and cancer survivors, but for fans of life in general. It is an inspiring and emotional story that will bring both tears to your eyes and a smile to your face. McGraw seems to use the book as a means to seek forgiveness from the fans and a request for a second chance in the waning moments of his life.

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