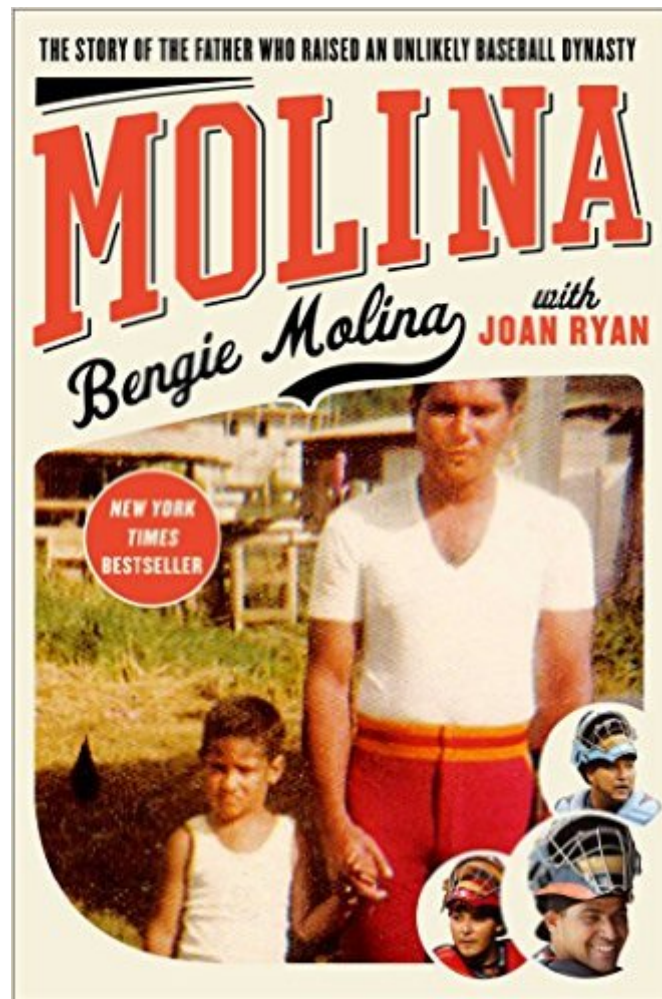


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Molina: The Story Of The Father Who Raised An Unlikely Baseball Dynasty



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller • This year's baseball book most likely to be made into a terrific movie. • "The Chicago Tribune • "Affecting...A simply told, deeply moving story, quite unlike the usual baseball book. • "Kirkus Reviews (starred review)A baseball rules book. A tape measure. A lottery ticket. These were in the pocket of Bengie Molina's father when he died of a heart attack on the rutted Little League field in his Puerto Rican barrio. The items serve as thematic guideposts in Molina's beautiful memoir about his father, who through baseball taught his three sons about loyalty, humility, courage, and the true meaning of success. Bengie and his two brothers • Jose and six-time All-Star Yadier • became famous catchers in the Major Leagues and have six World Series championships among them. Only the DiMaggio brothers can rival the Molinas as the most accomplished siblings in baseball history. Bengie was the least likely to reach the Majors. He was too slow, too sensitive, and too small. But craving his beloved father's respect, Bengie weathered failure after deflating failure until one day he was hoisting a World Series trophy in a champagne-soaked clubhouse. All along he thought he was fulfilling his father's own failed dream of baseball glory • only to discover it had not been his father's dream at all. Written with the emotional power of sports classics such as *Field of Dreams* and *Friday Night Lights*, Molina is a love story between a formidable but flawed father and a son who, in unearthing answers about his father's life, comes to understand his own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book tells of the love story between father Pai, and oldest son Bengie Molina. It is also the

incredible story of a family that produced three major league baseball catchers (JosÃ©, Yadier and Bengie), who each have earned two World Series championships, as well as an autobiography of Bengie. Pai was a very talented baseball player who had the potential, but never made it to the major leagues. In fact, Bengie writes that people will tell you that Pai was a better player than any of his sons. Bengie does not reveal until late in the book why Pai didn't play in the major leagues. Pai taught and coached youth baseball, which was his passion. His rules were about the same thing: respect for coaches, umpires, teammates, teachers, parents, the game, yourself. In addition to baseball, Pai enjoyed drinking beer and playing dominoes with his friends. Mai (Bengie's mother) was a good fit for Pai. She was lively and gregarious enough to fill Pai's silences. And what luck to find a girl who loved baseball as much as he did. As far as his faith, Bengie writes "My baptism and communion were pretty much the extent of my church experience. My parents weren't even married in a church. Church weddings cost too much. As a child, on the few occasions I found myself in the Vega Alta church, I didn't feel that God would live in such a place. The door was thick and heavy, and when it closed behind me, I imagined being sealed inside an enormous crypt, cut off from everything alive." I'm a St. Louis Cardinals fan and my favorite player is Yadier Molina. Bengie tells the story that Yadier was the only five-year-old in the history of Little League to infuriate an umpire enough to get tossed from a game (for calling the umpire an obscene name).

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