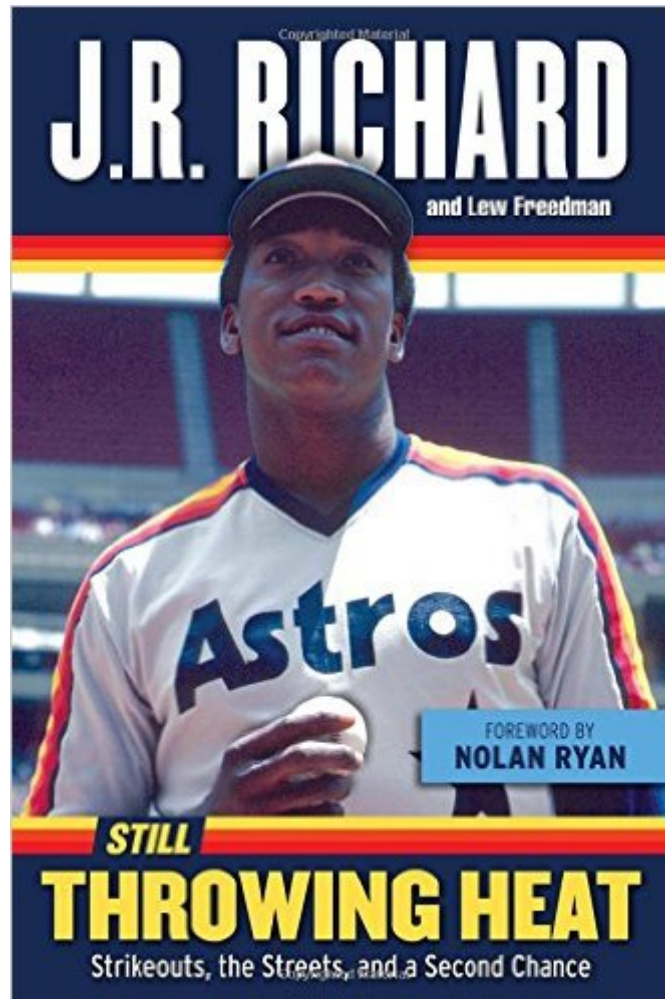


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# Still Throwing Heat: Strikeouts, The Streets, And A Second Chance



## Synopsis

A flame-throwing star with the Houston Astros, J. R. Richard was at the top of his profession when he inexplicably began complaining of arm weakness in 1980. Initially scoffed at because he continued approaching 100 mph on the radar gun, everything changed when Richard collapsed while playing catch with a teammateâlater diagnosed as a life-threatening stroke. The shocking development ended Richardâs major league career and set off a chain of events that led to the former All-Star being homeless by the mid-1990s. This rapid rise and sudden, tragic fall define the unusual, moving, and inspirational life of a Houston icon who has endured many hardships but has become an admired figure in his adopted hometown. J. R. Richard tells that story now in his own words, including the highs and the lows of his brilliant athletic career, the difficulties that befell him on and off the field, abandonment by those he counted on after his stroke, the despair of losing everything, and his ultimate redemption and giving back to the community.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

A great look back at a dominant pitcher's life & career. JR Richard was a powerhouse athlete that has, sadly, been forgotten by many fans. HE was one of the main reasons I became an Astros fan as a kid back in the late 70's. His career was cut short by a stroke in 1980. I love the part of the book that detailed his early life. Much of the book is JR recounting his life. Each chapter starts with Lew Freedman's thoughts. My only complaint is sometimes JR gets a little repetitive, but that is a minor issue (hence 4 stars instead of 5). But don't let that stop you from buying this book. This is a

must for any Astros fan.

This is very good book on the life of JR Richard. Richard was a great pitcher in MLB before a stroke ended his career. He threw about 100 mph and was striking out over 300 a season when he was felled by this stroke. Richard goes into detail how this stroke affected him and how he dealt with it. It was amazing that he kept his faith in God even when things were at their worst. I had forgotten that he was homeless for a time and was in really bad shape. He was able to overcome all of this through a great support group network. The reason I gave 4 stars is that some of this book becomes repetitive it seems and could have been condensed a little. But still a fine book for MLB fans who watched Richard when he was at his best.

This was a great pitcher cut down in his prime by a stroke. I've seen him pitch in person, he was fantastic. He writes honestly about his downfalls and recovery. He has a strong faith and gives thanks without hitting you over the head and being holier than thou.

This man is baseball to me. I was 5 & thru baseball cards fell in love with the Astros & this amazing pitcher. Then I tried to emulate him as a ball player. To read this book you realize Mr. Richard is an even better human being. This was a prime athlete cut down in his prime by a bulls\*\*\* medical fluke. When most would give up JR fought back. And when his career was robbed and he faced the toughest life obstacle JR kicked that ass too! Highly recommended for any REAL baseball fan to learn of one of the greatest pitchers of all time for the first time.

Sincere memoir written by a fascinating but almost forgotten great of the 1970s with a tragic end to his career, describing how he bounced back from homelessness. A bit repetitious at times, the story is nonetheless compelling enough to compensate.

This might well be the most poorly written and proofread book I have ever had the displeasure to open. I struggled to complete this book as a good third of it is constant repeats and mistakes. My wife gave me this as an xmas present or I never would have finished it. JR constantly repeats himself and sometimes not even accurately. For instance towards the end of the book on page 186 he states that he didn't qualify for an MLB pension because he was 35 years old and had just stopped being homeless and BAT stepped in to pay his living expenses. Then on the very next page he states that he was discovered living under a bridge at age 44. That is just the tip of the iceberg. I

won't go into the social things he mentioned in off hand ways about his medical condition being ignored because he was black. His personality seems very self centered and his professed love and worship God just doesn't hold up. Neither does this story.

I was happy to learn about J.R. Richard although this book seems a little simple. I also would have liked hearing about his homelessness in more detail.

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