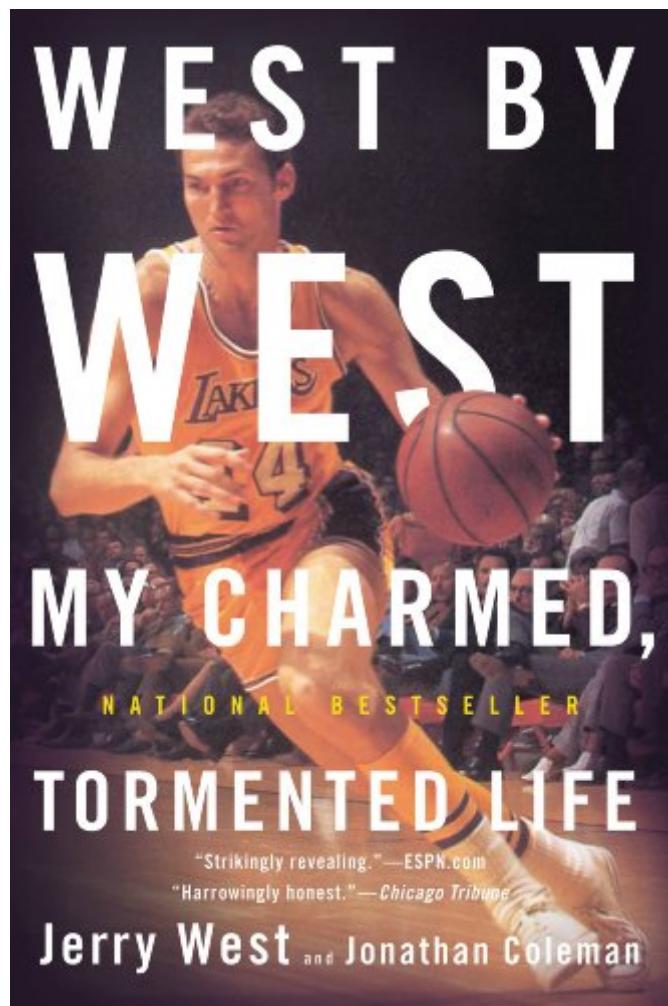


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# West By West: My Charmed, Tormented Life



## **Synopsis**

He is one of basketball's towering figures: "Mr. Clutch," who mesmerized his opponents and fans. The coach who began the Lakers' resurgence in the 1970s. The general manager who helped bring "Showtime" to Los Angeles, creating a championship-winning force that continues to this day. Now, for the first time, the legendary Jerry West tells his story—from his tough childhood in West Virginia, to his unbelievable college success at West Virginia University, his 40-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers, and his relationships with NBA legends like Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, and Kobe Bryant. Unsparing in its self-assessment and honesty, **WEST BY WEST** is far more than a sports memoir: it is a profound confession and a magnificent inspiration.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Jerry West was my idol as I was growing up. This statement could have been made by many other West Virginia children as well as hundreds of thousands outside the Mountain State. If outsiders asked, "What is the difference between your state and the state of Virginia?", We would respond, "We had "WEST". After reading this book, I quickly realized that our state moniker, "Almost Heaven",

did not ring true for Jerry during his youth. Experiencing a difficult childhood, more unnurturing and unpleasant than we had ever been led to believe, it is simply amazing to me, that this man could be so fan friendly, courteous and publically humble all his life. Make no mistake, for a devoted fan this is a must read, but a difficult one. So compelling, that I could not put it down! It is a book for adults, however, due to its candid, transparent and honest assessments. I met Jerry at Camp Wahoo, his basketball camp in Virginia in 1970. He had just lost his 7th NBA championship, this time to the Knicks. Despite his personal disappointments, he was gracious and kind to each and every camper. (Ditto, 1971.) He agreed to all photograph and autograph requests, which, by the way, were always neat, legible and carefully written. Never rushed. Thirty seven years later, upon re-meeting him at Bob Huggin's Fantasy Camp in Morgantown, WV, I discovered how remarkably consistent his autograph was. At that Fantasy camp in June 2008, I had the privilege of sharing dinner with Jerry and his co-author, Jonathan Coleman. (I actually introduced Mr. Coleman to Jerry's 1973 book, "Basketball My Way", which he was unaware existed at the time, but I digress). Jerry asked me why I decided at age 50 to attend the camp. I responded that my impetus was to meet him again!

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