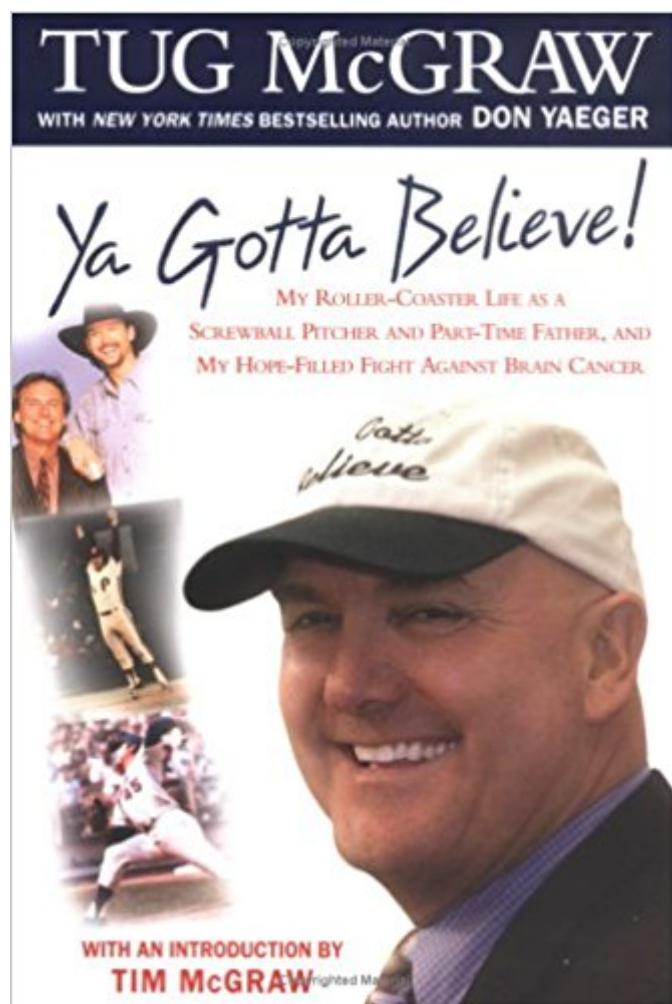


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# Ya Gotta Believe!: My Roller-Coaster Life As A Screwball Pitcher, And Part-Time Father, And My Hope-Filled Fight Against Brain Cancer



## 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

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.

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