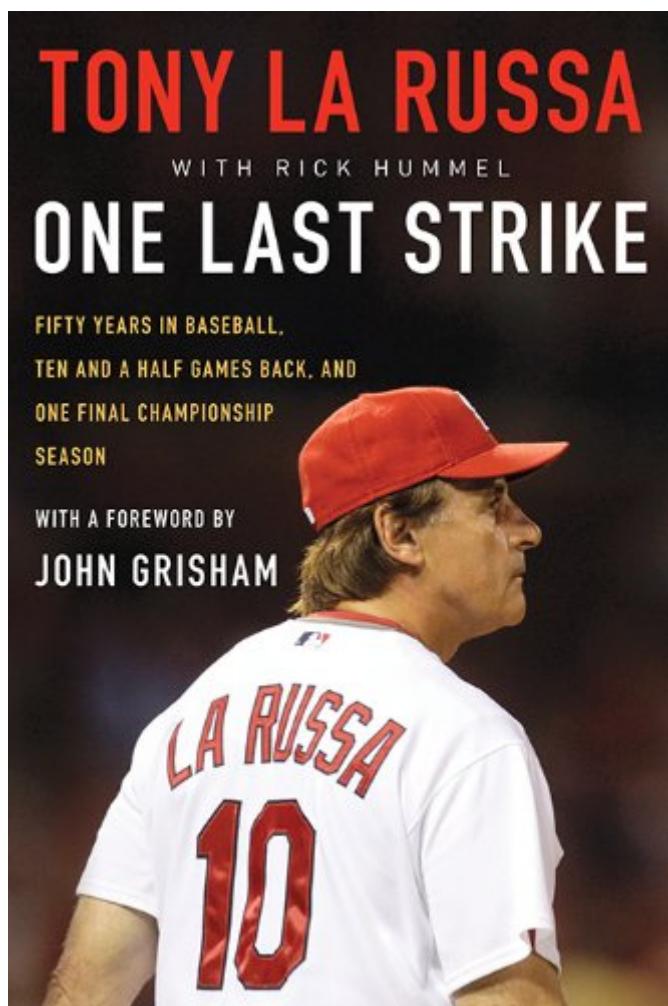


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# One Last Strike: Fifty Years In Baseball, Ten And Half Games Back, And One Final Championship Season



## **Synopsis**

One Last Strike by legendary baseball manager Tony La Russa is a thrilling sports comeback story. La Russa, the winner of four Manager of the Year awardsâ "who led his teams to six Pennant wins and three World Series crownsâ "chronicles one of the most exciting end-of-season runs in baseball history, revealing with fascinating behind-the-scenes details how, under his expert management, the St. Louis Cardinals emerged victorious in the 2011 World Series despite countless injuries, mishaps, and roadblocks along the way. Talking candidly about the remarkable seasonâ "and his All-Star players like Albert Pujols and David Freeseâ "the recently retired La Russa celebrates his fifty years in baseball, his teamâ ™s amazing recovery from 10 Â games back, and one final, unforgettable championship in a book that no true baseball fan will want to miss.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

On September 1, 2011--one month before post-season play began--the baseball websites and algorithms gave La Russa's Cardinals a 2.6 chance of winning the division and a 1.7 chance of winning the wild card for a combined 4.3 chance of even playing post-season. Baseball fans everywhere know what happened. La Russa tells us he ignored the sites as he "was more

concerned with the basics of maintaining our hard-earned self-respect and respect from others...." From most, this could sound like just one of many cliches. With superb writing from Hall of Fame sportswriter Rick Hummel, nothing in this wonderful book sounds trite. To the contrary, the stories are incredibly informative and inspiring--and timeless in nature. La Russa opens with the end of a disappointing 2010. He almost retired. When player-leaders came up to him and said things had gotten too loose in clubhouse, La Russa felt he had lost his ability to instill constant "effort and execution"--the "Cardinal way." He had won World Series in both leagues and already was a certain Hall of Famer. But always, he was a fierce competitor. he couldn't depart after a season like 2010. He would leave after one more best shot. He decides early on that it will be his final season and tells only his family and the owners. He even holds off telling his closest confidant, Dave Duncan, long-time chief aide, as he worries about Mrs. Duncan's illness. His secret compartmentalized, from spring training through perhaps the most thrilling World Series ever, La Russa leads and motivates. Thanks to fresh writing, good memory (it helps that La Russa is so bright!) and insightful dialogue, the book reads smooth as silk.

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