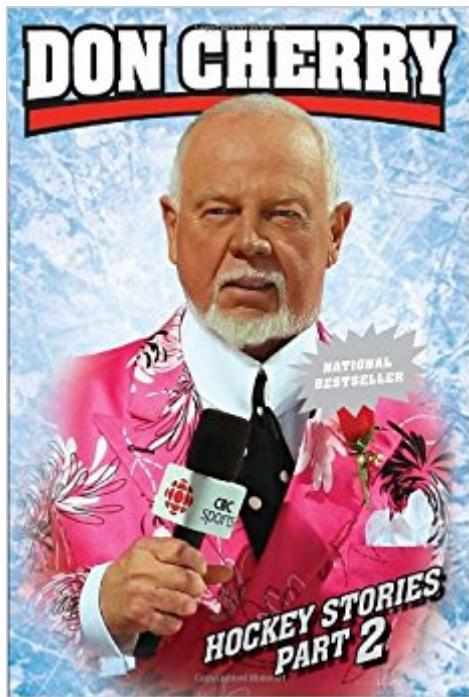


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Don Cherry's Hockey Stories, Part 2



Synopsis

You thought you'd read them all, did you? Well, you haven't. Simultaneously loved and loathed, Don Cherry is one of the most talkative and talked-about personalities in hockey today. His more than twenty-five years as a player and coach have informed his popular Hockey Night in Canada commentary segment, "Coach's Corner." And now he's got more stories to share. In Don Cherry's Hockey Stories, Part 2, Grapes tells us about the 2010 Stanley Cup, relays the lessons he's learned both on and off the ice, and takes us inside hockey's mythical players' "code." You'll encounter familiar names from the game and find out who this idol looks up to. You'll travel back in time to Cherry's days playing in the minor leagues. You'll share his experiences of being named Coach of the Year in the NHL and in the AHL. And you'll hear from his kids about what it was like growing up with a dad like Don. Don Cherry tells it like it is, for better or for worse. You won't be disappointed. P.S. Don wants you to know it's a book the whole family can enjoy. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

A high school dropout from Kingston, Ontario, Cherry laced up with the American Hockey League's Hershey Bears in 1954 to begin what would be nearly a two-decade playing career. The 20-year-old rookie would jump to a number of minor league teams in the United States and Canada over the course of his 16 years on the ice, bringing his young family with him on more than 50 moves. After being fired from his role as Coach of the Boston Bruins in 1979 Cherry went on to coach the Colorado Rockies for one unsuccessful season. A chance appearance on Hockey Night in Canada

impressed CBC officials enough for them to create a platform for the bombastic ex-player and coach. "Coach's Corner" would go on to court both controversy and high ratings, as hockey fans rushed to their televisions to take in his singular mix of game analysis, cultural commentary and playful parrying with host Ron MacLean. Cherry has parlayed his broadcast success into a line of popular videos, a chain of restaurants, a syndicated radio show and lucrative endorsements. In addition to these ventures he has spent the past few years raising funds for Rose Cherry's Home for Kids, a hospice for terminally-ill children. Named after his beloved wife, who died of cancer in June 1997, Don Cherry has passionately campaigned for the Milton, Ontario hospiceFrom the Hardcover edition.

Itâ™s June 2010â "the Stanley Cup finals between the Chicago Blackhawks and Philadelphia Flyers. Ron MacLean and I have been goinâ™ since April 8, every other night for two months.Â Itâ™s not bad. The first two series we do out of the CBC studio in Toronto. For the semifinals and finals, we are on the road.Â Our first night on the road, weâ™re in Philadelphia. Ron and I have a few too many pops, kind of deliberately. The playoffs remind me of when I played: you come to camp in good shape, but you all get together the first night and have a session. Youâ™d be good all summer, and then just before camp, you ruin it.Â So about ten the next morning, Ron and I are in this cab and weâ™re bakinâ™, itâ™s so hot. Weâ™re in our shirts and ties because we always travel that way in the States. (People at airports think weâ™re detectives, as thereâ™s usually an older cop and a young cop.) I always think my shirts look good, but theyâ™re murder in the summer. The cab, as usual, is so small my legs are jammed up against the front seat. Why is every American cab dirty and small, with no air-conditioning and windows that donâ™t roll down? And, of course, Iâ™m on the side where the sun shines through.Â And the extra pops donâ™t help. When will we ever learn?Â Folks, this is not the glamorous life everybody thinks it is. There are ticket lines at the airport. And security lines. The customs guys always seem to be ticked off about something. You get to the hotel and the rooms arenâ™t ready. Eventually, you unpack (Iâ™ve got tons to unpack and Ron seems to have nothing).Â So here I am, sittinâ™ in this hot cab, thinkinâ™ all these things and feelinâ™ sorry for myself. I look at Ron and he says, âœNever mind. Just think of the twelve cold ones weâ™ll have on ice for after the game tonight.â •Â I do. Everything is right with the world.Â * * *Â Still in the finals. Now weâ™re into Chicago, and we land. Weâ™re walking through the tunnel between Oâ™Hare Airport and the airport hotel. As we walk along the tunnelâ "and weâ™re the only ones in itâ "we come to a guy with a little organ, and heâ™s singinâ™. He really sounds great.Â Ron says, âœI think that guy a wonderful singer?â •

and before I can say anything, he has dropped a fiver into the guyâ™s hat.Â I say, âœYou jerk. That guyâ™s not singing. Itâ™s a record. Thatâ™s Sam Cooke singing. The guy is only lip-synching.â •Â Ron says, âœYou know, youâ™re too cynical. You should wake up to the world. There arenâ™t people like that. You couldnâ™t be more wrong.â •Â So about four days later, weâ™re on our way back. Same tunnel. Same guy. Now the guy is letting on heâ™s playing a violin. He sounds like Stratovarius, or whatever his name is. I drop a fiver into his hat as a reward for being such a good con artist.Â Ron gets taken every time. He never passes a guy who needs a handout, no matter what. But he definitely does get taken a lot.Â For instance, weâ™re in Anaheim one night, and after a few pops in the bar, weâ™re walkinâ™ back to the hotel. This guy comes up to us and gives us this song and dance.Â âœCan you guys help me out? Iâ™ve spent all my money on the bar, and now donâ™t have any money for a taxi to get home. I was wondering if you guys could help me because now Iâ™m over the limit, and I donâ™t want to drive my car.â •Â Believe it or not, Ron bites on this one and gives the guy twenty-five bucks to get home.Â I say, âœAre you nuts?â •Â He answers, âœYes, I know. He could be lying. But what if it was true? I would never forgive myself, and Iâ™d feel so guilty if he drove and hurt somebody.â •Â Hoo boy.Â * * *Â Itâ™s in Philly, right between the fifth and sixth games. We go out to a bar.Â Now, usually, we stay in Ronâ™s room at night and have a twelvepack on ice and watch TV and have a few munchies and cheese and we have a grand time. But we figured this series is going to wind up pretty soon, so the night before the sixth game, we go out to a bar for a little celebration. Believe it or not, the bartender knows all about my Bruins back when I was coachinâ™ them against Phillyâ™s Broad Street Bullies. He knows everything.Â I know heâ™s not a phony because he remembers the one gameâ™ the second game of the semifinalsâ™ that we were up 3â™0 and we blew a three-goal lead, with Bobby Clarke tyinâ™ it up with two minutes to go. He has it all down, and he remembers how Terry Oâ™Reilly got the winner for us in the second overtime.Â Ron, who not only gives money to guys who drink too much, tips bartendersâ™ and waitressesâ™ like heâ™s paying off the national debt. This time, he tips the guy fifty bucks.Â I say, âœHey, fifty bucks? What are you doing?â •Â He says, âœEverybodyâ™s gotta live.â •Â So on the way back to our hotel, weâ™re strollinâ™ along, feelinâ™ no pain, and we see a young guy who is really down on his luck, and he has a little dog on a piece of rope with him.Â Ron says to me as we cross an intersection, âœDoesnâ™t it break your heart to see a young fellow like that? And isnâ™t it wonderful how that dog loves him and sticks with him?â •Â So weâ™re halfway across the intersection by now, and I say, âœWell, if you feel that way, why donâ™t you go back and help him out?â •Â I was just kiddinâ™. It was just a joke. He says, âœIâ™ll do that,â • and he goes

back and says to the young fella. "Don't take this the wrong way. I just want to help you out a little. I want to give you a little something to help you out, you and your dog." • And he slips him a fifty as well. What a guy! He falls for everything. From the Hardcover edition.

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