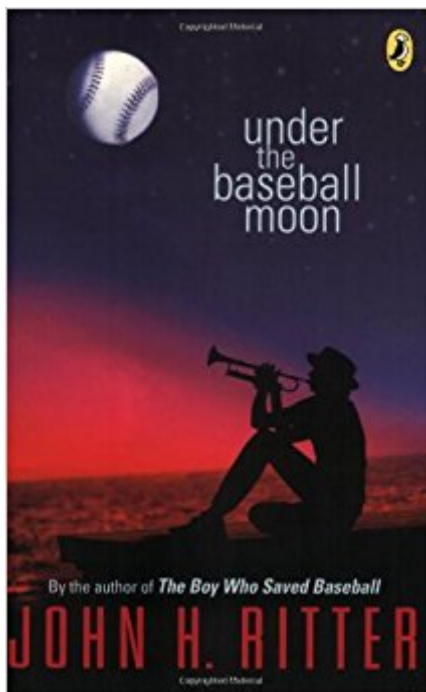


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# Under The Baseball Moon



## Synopsis

Andy Ramos, a free-style skateboarding trumpeter, has dreams as big as a baseball moon. Born into a family of musicians, Andy wants to take his unique fusion of Latin jazz, rock, and hip-hop straight to the top. But when he crosses paths with Glory Martinez, a softball pitcher who has Olympian dreams of her own, the mysterious fusion of their athletic and musical skills changes everything. Or is that due to the elegant, but eerie man in black?

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (February 14, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014241090X

ISBN-13: 978-0142410905

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #329,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball](#) #80 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 7-10 *Skateboarding Andy Ramos*, an aspiring teen trumpeter whose understanding parents and loving, late grandfather were musicians, forms a fusion music band (mixture of hip-hop, Latin jazz, and rock) called FuChar Skool with two like-minded friends. At the same time, he meets up with Glory Martinez, a former neighbor in San Diego's funky, honky-tonk Ocean Beach neighborhood who has just returned to the area. When he and Glory were in elementary school, she was a great embarrassment to him, but now she has matured and become a promising softball pitcher. Gradually Andy develops a close and somewhat codependent relationship with her *Glory* needs Andy's trumpet riffs at her games to pitch effectively and he needs her to be present at his performances. Ritter adds to this mix three offbeat, strangely omniscient tricksters *a* Croatian fortune-teller who speaks in riddles; a street Holy Jokester who speaks in jive rhymes; and Max Lucero, a mysterious, ominous figure who attempts to buy Andy's soul by guaranteeing his musical success at all costs. Sparkling with descriptions of music

improvisation and softball action, and with expressive, idiomatic Spanglish dialogue, Andy's poetic first-person narrative superbly catches the weird uniqueness of Ocean Beach and briskly moves the somewhat overlong story to a satisfying conclusion. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Jack Forman, Mesa College Library, San Diego Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 7-10. In *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* (2003), Ritter seasoned the familiar Bad-News Bears formula with a splash of myth and a touch of otherworldliness. Here he uses the same spicing in a story that mixes softball and jazz--and the results are equally tasty. Andy Ramos is a San Diego teen with dreams of making it big in the music business, but even his head-turning trumpet playing won't be enough without a few breaks. Enter a mysterious street person who claims to be able to launch Andy's career--think Robert Johnson at the crossroads, making a deal with the devil--and suddenly those elusive breaks fall Andy's way. Then a childhood friend, Gloria Martinez, a talented softball pitcher with Olympian dreams, returns to Andy's Ocean Beach (OB) neighborhood, and romantic sparks fly--until it appears that Andy's strange benefactor sees Gloria as a threat not a soul mate. Ritter pulls out all the stops in his myth-heavy plot, but what really makes the book soar is his sense of place: the laid-back, hippie-influenced, communal spirit of the OB permeates every scene, offering stark contrast to the coldly commercial world toward which Andy aspires. As in his earlier work, Ritter melds style to content beautifully, telling his story in a hip, street-smart argot that perfectly matches Andy's trumpet improvisations. Teen friendly, lots of fun, never preachy, but with plenty of thematic pizzazz. Bill Ott Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Capturing the spirit of OB in San Diego with youth, baseball, music and quirky characters I can't help but marvel at the wonderful imagination & perhaps memories of youth as captured by John H. Ritter. Got teenagers or pre-teens? Grab a copy of this!

I loved it....thanks! Great transaction!

Excelente!!!!

I found the title as an audiobook, available at my public library, listened to it, and am very pleased. Soon I'll look for more of his titles to read/or/hear. At the end of the recording which I heard, there is

a short interview, with the reader/performer speaking with the author. Among other statements, the author says his books tend to include love stories, which he keeps respectable... because (for just one of his reasons) because the market is already quite full with more than enough (other) explicit stories packed with graphic details. He also says he combined topics of baseball and music in UNDER THE BASEBALL MOON, because each is not the most-frequent topic found in YoungAdult (youth) novels. \*\* Upon a quick internet search, I found a website for the author JOHN H. RITTER that included detailed outlines and explanations of all the music and songs related to the book. I look forward to pursuing that also. RECOMMENDING !

When Andy Ramos was in grade school his parents were friends with a woman whose daughter was a little loco. Unfortunately, whenever crazy little Glory had a meltdown Andy was the one they got to calm her down, earning both of them embarrassing reputations. When the mother and daughter left, Andy re-invented himself. Taking the trumpet lessons he took from his grandfather and melding music and talent Andy became the skateboarding trumpeter "painting" the scenes around him with his own blend of musical instrumentation. The summer that Andy and his band are ready to "break out" who comes back but Glory. However, the Glory that has returned is not the crazy little girl Andy knew, she's now a driven softball player obsessed with becoming a leading pitcher on a national team. As fate would have it Andy and Glory learn to play off each other, inspiring and driving their respective abilities to new heights. But, is this effect a mystical connection or are they being manipulated by another force? Under the Baseball Moon has got to be one of the most unusual stories I've read in a while. The content involving a trumpet player and softball player, the music, the language and storytelling are all unusual and inspired. Although the Crossroads references are something I'm familiar with, not much else was. I thoroughly enjoyed this story and think it would be a great recommendation for kids pre-teen and up.

John H. Ritter returns with another great baseball fable, this time adding the elements of jazz music and a little more romance. Just as in THE BOY WHO SAVED BASEBALL, there is still a bit of possible magic and some very quirky and entertaining characters, including a protagonist on a mission, Andy Ramos. According to Andy's heartthrob, Glory Martinez, when the moon looms large during a daytime baseball game, it is what fans call "a baseball moon." Just as Andy and his friends, Tran and Lil Lobo, hope for the success of their garage band, Glory also dreams of being a big softball star. She and Andy discover that his trumpet seems to infuse her softball playing with magical power. A few musical "improvs" on Andy's trumpet, and Glory's pitching and hitting improve

"two hundred percent better," according to her best friend, Kayla. Together, the two will do amazing things, under the "baseball moon". John Ritter weaves his usual magic and creates an even better novel--a little more literarily complex, just as magical, and even funnier than his earlier works. Recommended for ages 11 to 18. (Please see the latest issue of VOYA for even more details.)

Average quality. A gift for my Daughter attending college and she loves them. very easy to use what I have been searching for I find it very easy to operate and as commodity description. I am satisfied with it, I will recommend to friends! I am very happy I picked this brand

My review of this fantastic book: There are a lot of books out there on the market. There are good books, there are bad books. Sometimes there are books that stand out as great. "Under the Baseball Moon" by John H. Ritter is one of those stand out books. It's about a teenage boy named Andy who has dreams of using his unique style of trumpet playing to become famous. Things become complicated when Andy crosses paths with his childhood friend, Glory Martinez, who has a dream of her own of becoming an Olympic softball pitcher. Things are further complicated when Andy meets a mysterious man in black who offers Andy fame and fortune for free. BUT what's the cost of free? This book is exceptionally well written and easy to follow. There are many dynamic characters with their own personality. This combined with the author's witty remarks makes an awesome duo. What I liked most about this book is that it's captivating. In many sports books you lose interest due to predictability and cliché endings. Overall this book was fantastic. I would definitely recommend "Under the Baseball Moon" to anyone looking for a fun read.

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