



# The Bronx is Burning: 1977, Baseball, Politics, and the Battle for the Soul of a City

By Jonathan Mahler

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**The Bronx is Burning: 1977, Baseball, Politics, and the Battle for the Soul of a City** By Jonathan Mahler

*A New York Times* Notable Book of the Year

**Scheduled for release in July 2007 as an ESPN original miniseries, starring John Turturro as Billy Martin, Oliver Platt as George Steinbrenner, and Daniel Sunjata as Reggie Jackson.**

A kaleidoscopic portrait of New York City in 1977, *The Bronx Is Burning* is the story of two epic battles: the fight between Yankee Reggie Jackson and team manager Billy Martin, and the battle between Mario Cuomo and Ed Koch for the city's mayorship. Buried beneath these parallel conflicts--one for the soul of baseball, the other for the soul of the city--was the subtext of race.

Deftly intertwined by journalist Jonathan Mahler, these braided Big Apple narratives reverberate to reveal a year that also saw the opening of Studio 54, the acquisition of the *New York Post* by Rupert Murdoch, a murderer dubbed the "Son of Sam," the infamous blackout, and the evolution of punk rock. As Koch defeated Cuomo, and as Reggie Jackson rescued a team racked with dissension, 1977 became a year of survival--and also of hope.

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#### Review

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"Entertaining and illuminating . . . It should not be surprising then that Mahler . . . believed a layered account of a single year in the life of the city, 1977, could sustain a book--nor should it be surprising that he was right. . . . A nuanced portrait of this wild year."--*The New York Times Book Review* (front cover)

"A rich canvas . . . an excellent new book."--*Sports Illustrated*

"Compulsively readable . . . Mahler's innocently emblematic figures careen vividly through their historical moment."--*The Wall Street Journal*

#### About the Author

**Jonathan Mahler** is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and son.

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