



All Day  
**Everyday**

by **Ronnie Chaps**

# *All Day Everyday*

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Strategic Book Group

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Strategic Book Group  
P.O. Box 333  
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[www.StrategicBookClub.com](http://www.StrategicBookClub.com)

ISBN: 978-1-61897-617-8

Book Design: Dedicated Book Solutions, Inc.

*For my family and everyone I have played sports with throughout my life. May you have good health and a smile on your face. Keep laughing.*



# Chapter 1

Doors open. Doors close. How long will a person keep the door shut? On network television, one reporter raised this question. Some say it was the best hour of television. Some say it was one of the best stories ever told. Others argued it was the most honest interview in many years. It was the year 2064 when Richard Chimes, arguably the best reporter of his time, interviewed a baseball legend. His name was Ronnie “Screwdriver” Thompson.

Richard Chimes always looked for the most uplifting stories around. He was the one well-known reporter chosen by many to come and interview sports legends, movie stars, or anyone of great importance. His biggest problem? The network looked for reporters who fed on gossip. Chimes did not believe it was the right of the public to know about troubled marriages, drug problems, or sex scandals. He believed the star should be asked questions that would help people understand why we fell in love in the first place. Richard liked doing interviews where the public felt a sense of compassion. That was what he was all about.

Every reporter of this time asked celebrities questions about who they were sleeping with or who they didn’t like working with- anything to get people to watch. Extra points for making the athlete or actor look like a greedy piece of garbage, or even putting them to blame for what was wrong with society as a whole. Chimes hated the direction reporting had taken and refused to ask these types of questions. Richard never did an interview where the celebrity was sorry he or she ever did it in the first place.

This was the very reason why Richard Chimes was seen less and less on television. Although he was still considered

one of the best, he slowly faded away from the sight of Americans. Many networks in America liked this. All they cared about were ratings, putting on spy television to catch cheating husbands, a lot of clips showing men getting hit in the crotch, and random street riots, just basically mind-numbing programming. The network hoped Chimes would just retire, but he refused. He loved the work. The network had been giving all of the interviews to the younger reporters with their good looks and gossip questions. "The public has the right to know," was always their big statement.

Things got hard for Chimes, to say the least. "They don't watch an interview because I'm a hot number but because of the content of the interview," he always said. The network started calling Chimes stubborn and old-fashioned. The crazy thing about it all was Chimes did not want to be with the times. To him, television had lost its touch. People were more likely to stay at home and use the set for talking with their friends or trying to win money through the networks.

Richard, still on the network's payroll, hadn't been given any interviews. They even forced him out of the office and told him to stay at home, and they would call if anything came up. The phone had not rung at Chimes's home in two years. Chimes had become everything he hated. He rarely shaved, he rarely showered, and if he was awake, he was three sheets to the wind. He never left the house because he didn't want to miss a phone call from the network. He never got married because he was always on the road. Chimes always said, "I know it is no way to live but I'm married to my job." Sure, there were plenty of women in his life, and he had dreamt about how great a family would be, but he never went through with it. He figured it was too late to start now. So while Chimes was hitting rock bottom, there was no one there to drag his carcass from out of the abyss.

The last interview Chimes did was with a recovering drug addict who used to be one hell of a ballplayer. Chimes wanted to show compassion for the fallen star but the network

wanted to ask questions about the player hitting rock bottom. During the whole interview, the producers were yelling in Chimes's ear through the earpiece telling him what to ask. Chimes stuck to his guns, only asking his own questions. Chimes almost snapped during the interview because of the producers rattling questions through his head. He finished the interview and spent the next two days in the office getting yelled at by the upper echelons. After their diatribe, he was sent home. Maybe for good.

Out of nowhere, the network received a call from Ronnie "Screwdriver" Thompson claiming he was ready to be interviewed. This sent shockwaves through the network. Ronnie went his whole baseball career without ever speaking more than five words to the media. He was a great baseball player who never won a World Series as a player, but he played for nine years making eight all-star teams before having a career-ending knee injury. When he was a manager for ten years, he won four World Series and the respect of all his peers. No one knew anything about Ronnie, where he came from, or why he left. He was now eighty-five years old and still getting a call every month from the networks to tell his life story. Ronnie noticed they asked to know about his life and not what he was known for. Ronnie, on the phone with the network executive stated clearly, "I will only be interviewed by Richard Chimes. That was exactly what the network didn't want to hear.

The network had a half-day meeting with the executives about how to handle this. None of them had spoken to Chimes in two years, and if Chimes would do the interview, would the public watch the program? After a long meeting, they called Ronnie back over and over again, pleading to have another reporter do the interview, but Ronnie would not give in. The network decided they would finally have a chance to get information about Ronnie's life, see what scandals kept him from doing interviews, and to find out what was really going on in his personal life. But would it be worth it, if Chimes had to do the interview?

The executives had their pie charts made up to see what markets would be interested in this interview and if it would be budget-worthy. Some executives asked what sense would it make for us to do this interview now. Would people still be interested in Ronnie's life after all of these years? They knew there would be a story, but they wanted it to be on their terms. They would have to shape this interview in such a way to wheedle every secret out of Ronnie. They assumed these secrets would have to be amazing for Ronnie to stay away from the media all of these years.

The network was also worried about Ronnie just wanting this interview to get one last crack into the Hall of Fame. Although it was argued that Ronnie should be in the Hall, at least as a manager, the Hall always ignored the recommendation. If the interview was just going to entail Ronnie comparing stats and having Chimes shy away from the dirt, the network would want nothing to do with it. The network would need Ronnie to confess to gambling, marital problems, problems with other players, or possibly getting him to cry to get a good rating. No evidence existed of any scandal or problems in his career, however, so what could the interview be about besides trying to get himself into the Hall?

The half-day with the executives turned into a late night of arguing and background checks on Ronnie. Bar graphs and pie charts would be the fate of this interview happening. Although Ronnie only gave a five-minute statement after each game his whole career, the public loved him. He would give to charities, was nice to the fans, and every player he coached or played with had nothing bad to say about him. This was the reason the charts and graphs favored the interview.

The executives had one last meeting to decide what to do. The head executive sat at the head of the long conference table and began to speak, cigar hanging from his mouth. "We all know the stories about how everyone loved Ronnie "Screwdriver" Thompson, from the players, coaches, and fans. The public may feel they want to hear about all

of the love bullshit. But we know what the public wants to hear. They want scandals and craziness. They want something they can talk about for the rest of their lives. They want to feel better than Ronnie Thompson. They want to see him as a person who screwed up. The public wants to hear about Ronnie doing cocaine off hookers and where his life went downhill. That's why I hired our private detective. He just called me and he didn't find shit. No illegitimate children or any of that stuff. That is why we need tough questions during this interview. We need to dig deep here people. We need a tough interview out of our reporter."

The network gave one last call to Ronnie, trying to convince him to do the interview with one of their new reporters. Ronnie would not budge. So it was settled. The executives would use Chimes and give him a four-man crew. They were not going to spend an extra dime of their money to put this together. If the interview was not to their liking, they would simply disregard it and put it in the trash with millions of other pieces. But if they could get two minutes of dirt, it would be a lead story on the news at least.

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