

# ERNIE JOHNSON, JR.

 @TurnerSportsEJ

 @ernie.johnson



Ernie Johnson, Jr. is one of sport's most respected and loved personalities. The three-time Sports Emmy Award winner and host of TNT's "Inside the NBA" with Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith, and Shaquille O'Neal has helped audiences break down games and belly laugh for decades. Ernie is also the host for NBA TV's popular "Fan Night" and a host for Turner and CBS's NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship coverage. He is the lead play-by-play announcer for Turner's coverage of Major League Baseball and the PGA Championship, and has also covered the National Football League, The British Open, Wimbledon and the Olympics. In addition to his professional accolades and lifetime achievement awards, Ernie has earned honors recognizing his incredible actions off-camera, including the first-ever John Wooden Keys to Life Award and a Musial Award, both of which salute characteristics such as integrity, faith, and good sportsmanship. Ernie lives in Braselton, Georgia, with his wife, Cheryl, and their six children., four of whom are adopted.

## Why Ernie Johnson?



- Ernie has built one of the most visible and beloved platforms in entertainment. As host of TNT's "Inside the NBA," he has earned three Emmys and a loyal audience numbering in the millions thanks to the show's pioneering decision to let Ernie and analysts Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith, and Shaquille O'Neal be themselves.
- No one combines trusted insight, authentic sincerity, and laugh-out-loud wit quite like Ernie, as his 492,000 Twitter followers can attest.
- Ernie connects with people on a human level. His willingness to discuss topics such as the adoption of his and his wife Cheryl's children, including their special needs son Michael; the death of his father and best friend, iconic sportscaster and pitcher Ernie Johnson; his own battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma; and more has endeared him and given hope to millions.
- Ernie's intense work ethic is already legendary. His dedication was especially prominent in the early to mid 2000s, when he didn't miss a single night of hosting "Inside the NBA" as he fought non-Hodgkin lymphoma – even during chemo treatments. He was pronounced cancer-free in 2007.
- Ernie's inspiring commitment to his family and faith is also unwavering. He lives out his signature line – "Trust God...Period." – daily and through involvement with organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Samaritan's Feet.

“ If there's one thing life has taught me, it's not to fear the unscripted but to embrace it.”  
– Ernie Johnson, *Unscripted*

“ I stand in awe on a daily basis of the way God orchestrates life—how he connects the dots in ways I could never dream of if only I have the eyes to see and the heart to feel.”  
– Ernie Johnson, *Unscripted*



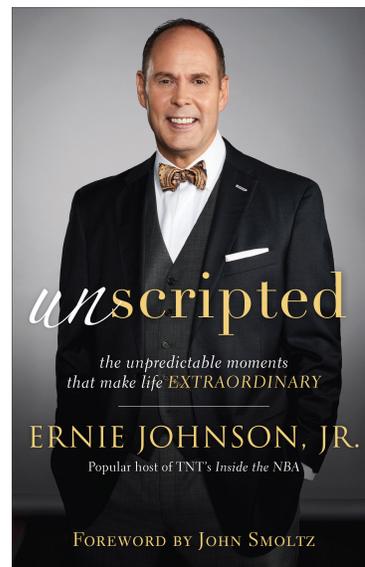
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## About the Book

### *Unscripted: The Unpredictable Moments that Make Life Extraordinary*

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In his new book **UNSCRIPTED: THE UNPREDICTABLE MOMENTS THAT MAKE LIFE EXTRAORDINARY**, Ernie Johnson, Jr. – Emmy-winning host of TNT’s “Inside the NBA” and one of the most recognizable voices in sports – takes readers behind the scenes of some of TV’s most popular shows and broadcasts, as well as into the privacy of his own home to share hard-won lessons in being open and slowing down to savor moments that really matter. UNSCRIPTED takes readers back to Ernie’s early days, offering intimate insight into his close relationship with his father, the iconic sportscaster and pitcher Ernie Johnson; his own athletic career; first jobs in TV; falling in love; and more. While the book is full of warm tales from Ernie’s youth and hilarious outtakes featuring coworkers Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith, and Shaquille O’Neal, UNSCRIPTED does not stick solely to life’s happy surprises. From the adoption of their special needs child and his health scares, to the death of Ernie’s father and his own battle with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and much more, Ernie shares the gut-wrenching side of weathering the unexpected with grace, wit, and wisdom.



For more information, visit [bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/unscripted/384800](http://bakerpublishinggroup.com/books/unscripted/384800)

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### Why UNSCRIPTED?



- Ernie writes that every life is full of blackberries – “unpredictable moments that make life extraordinary” – so called in tribute to two of his little league teammates who temporarily abandoned a game to indulge in the fruits of a blackberry bramble hidden past the outfield. UNSCRIPTED encourages readers to slow down, discover, and enjoy their life’s blackberries.
- Fans of “Inside the NBA” will love the book’s detailed, frequently hilarious, behind-the-scenes looks at how the show became an Emmy-winning phenomenon.
- Sports fans will welcome this unprecedented invitation into the life of a man they’ve come to see as a friend, while readers who couldn’t care less about games and scores will still laugh and cry their way through Ernie’s masterful storytelling.
- Throughout UNSCRIPTED, Ernie offers real-world examples of how to live and love that both teach and inspire.

““ My wish is not that you regard our family in some glorified, elevated way. Far from it. My wish is that this book will speak to you on some level right where you live in the area of parenting or faith or heartbreak or triumph.”  
– Ernie Johnson, *Unscripted*