



# **An Accidental Athlete: A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Middle Age**

*John "The Penguin" Bingham*

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*A funny thing happened on my way to middle age. I became an athlete. And not just any athlete, but a runner--all without taking a running step until I was 43 years old.*

Known by fans as "The Penguin" for his back-of-the-pack speed, John Bingham is the unlikely hero of the modern running boom. In this warm, witty memoir, the best-selling author and columnist recalls his childhood dreams of athletic glory, sedentary years of unhealthy excess, and a life-changing transformation from couch potato to "adult-onset athlete."

Overweight, uninspired, and saddled with a pack-and-a-half-a-day smoking habit, Bingham found himself firmly wedged into a middle-age slump. Then two scary trips to the emergency room and a conversation with a happy piano tuner led him to discover running--and changed his life forever.

In turns inspiring, poignant, hilarious, and heartbreaking, *An Accidental Athlete* is the story of the unexpected joys of running--the pride of the finisher's medal, a bureau-busting t-shirt collection, intense back-of-the-pack strategizing. And one man's discovery that middle age was not the finish line after all, but only the beginning.

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