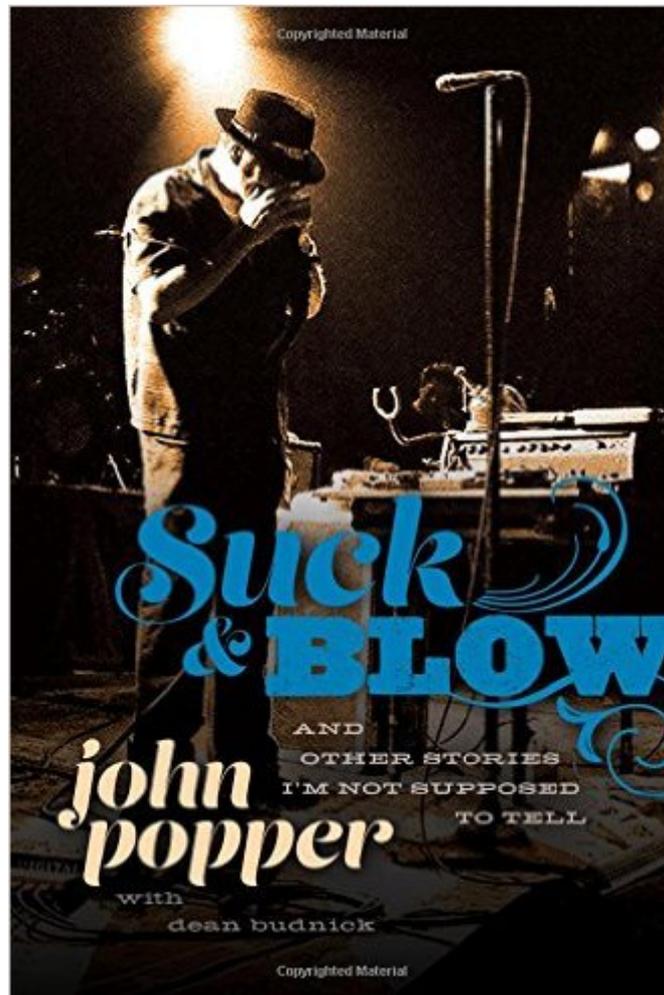


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# Suck And Blow: And Other Stories I'm Not Supposed To Tell



## Synopsis

Hailed by many as the world's greatest harmonica player, John Popper has redefined the instrument. As the lead singer and principal songwriter of Blues Traveler, Popper has performed for more than 30 million people over 2,000 live dates and composed such radio staples as "Hook," "But Anyway," and "Run-Around," the longest-charting single in Billboard history. He has appeared with Eric Clapton and B. B. King at the White House, welcomed the Hungarian ambassador to the stage, and inducted Carlos Santana into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In *Suck and Blow*, Popper shares a candid, spirited account of his life and career. A straight-F student at Princeton High School, Popper's life changed with one serendipitous harmonica solo that captured the attention of his mercurial band teacher (the same teacher whose life was later fictionalized in the Academy Award-winning film *Whiplash*). After befriending three fellow musicians with whom he would form Blues Traveler, Popper's academic career nearly ended in twelfth grade, until a meeting with the Dean of the New School for Social Research in which Popper pulled out his trusty harp and played his way into college. Popper and Blues Traveler soon became enmeshed in the lower Manhattan music scene of the late 1980s, eventually becoming the house band at the fabled Wetlands Preserve and embarking on a journey that would one day land the group at Madison Square Garden on New Year's Eve. Along the way, Popper and his cohorts commanded the attention of fans and bands alike, through inspired performances and riotous debauchery. Popper's unique perspective on the music business began under the tutelage of Blues Traveler's mentor and manager Bill Graham. After the rock impresario's untimely passing, Popper applied many of Graham's lessons to the formation of the H.O.R.D.E. tour, which John co-owned and hosted over eight years, welcoming such artists as Neil Young, the Allman Brothers Band, Phish, Dave Matthews Band, Ziggy Marley, and his longtime friends the Spin Doctors. Popper also shares a forthright assessment of his longstanding battle with obesity. Plagued by weight problems since childhood, a motorcycle accident a few years into his career confined him to a wheelchair for two years while his weight ballooned to 436 pounds. Angioplasty, gastric bypass surgery, and a tattoo on his chest that reads "I Want to Be Brave" when viewed in the mirror are products of Popper's struggle, compounded by codependency issues and the untimely death of founding Blues Traveler bassist Bobby Sheehan. Popper's personal identity is entwined with his political passions. A staunch supporter of gun rights, he has performed at the National Republican Convention, yet he also maintains liberal positions on social issues. He will reconcile these views and share his encounters with the Bush family, the Clintons, the Gores, and other politicians. The iconoclastic, self-described Johnny Appleharp also dishes on cutting contests, Twitter trolls, party fouls, and prostitutes. In *Suck*

and Blow, John Popper does it all with his signature honesty, humility, and humor.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306824043

ISBN-13: 978-0306824043

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.3 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #38,875 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Arts & Photography](#) > [Music > Biographies > Rhythm & Blues](#) #96 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Rock](#) #203 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Travelers & Explorers](#)

## Customer Reviews

I read a lot of music autobiographies, and Popper's is fantastic. His honesty, and self-deprecating sense of humor are laugh out loud funny, and he does a nice job imparting bits of wisdom to aspiring musicians which are based on his own life experience. If you grew up in the NJ suburbs during the 80's like Popper did, then you get a bonus because you will easily identify with his own experience going through high school and living just outside of NYC. Don't think twice, just order the book. You won't be able to put it down.

Great read. I've been waiting for this book for 17 years and it didn't disappoint. Popper tells it like it was with all the humor and humility a god can muster for the story of his life on earth, battling the bullies, the horde, and the help."Its loaded. Give me monitor or I'll kill you."While I have no complaints on the book itself, the kindle version did not include pictures which I didn't find out until after I had read the book, which is a bummer, which I cannot seem to find elsewhere on the internet.

I'm really trying not to be too critical because I like John Popper. He lived in the same county I grew up in, and played bars in my hometown. I'm completely baffled how any press allowed this book to be published in it's final form. Was there an editor? Did anyone read this before publishing? The book is plodding, tedious, boring, and written in a non linear fashion. John doesn't follow any timeline. It's as if he's just rambling about experiences in no order, or structure. I guess if there is an

upside, it's that I have no doubt John wrote most of this, and there was no heavy handed editor/ghost writer.

An interesting read. While I didn't know much about Blues Traveler the band I was quite familiar with their music. Now that has changed. John goes off on tangents every once in a while but overall this was a very entertaining story.

I am a big Blues Traveler fan, and an even bigger John Popper fan, so this book made me happy! This entire week while I've been reading it, I've had Blues Traveler stuck in my head. In many occasions, I was reading it WHILE listening to Blues Traveler, and there was at least once when I was reading it while listening to Blues Traveler and wearing one of my many Blues Traveler t-shirts. It has been a fun week, fully immersed in Blues Traveler fandom, and reliving many road trips I've taken to see a BT show. John Popper's writing made it feel like I was just sitting and chatting with a friend, with someone I've shared experiences with. With lots of memoirs, you feel like the writer is just spewing out details of events like its some sort of "what I did on my summer vacation" essay, but with this one, you could feel Popper's enthusiasm, his joy and his wonder at all the amazing experiences his talent has brought him. He remains humble and genuine and his voice as a story teller on paper is as authentic as his singing voice, which always makes me feel like he's sharing something deep and personal just with me. I would recommend this book to any BT fan. Not sure about how a non-fan would feel about it, but if you're not a fan, go to a show, listen to any album, and you'll become one, and I will recommend this book to you, too.

Never dug the music but bought the book upon recommendation of a friend just to see mentions of a musician buddy whom I know had played a positive role for Popper. This 'book' is an insipid collection of aimless ruminations by a guy whose head never made it out of 9th grade. An utter waste of reading life. Popper is a child.

I really enjoyed John Popper's autobiography it wasn't preaching or anything like that; it was just telling stories about blue's traveler started and his life up to now even when he had his child back in November 2015. I thought this is a pretty good book especially chapter 30 about his political leanings. Who would've thought that John Popper was a republican but he had the best line "I used to be a Democrat until I started making real money". Also he tells I don't let my political views getting away of a paying gig which I thought was pretty funny .

Not the best read in the world, but if you are a fan of Popper and Blues Traveler, it's a reasonable entertaining insight into how they went about building their career.

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