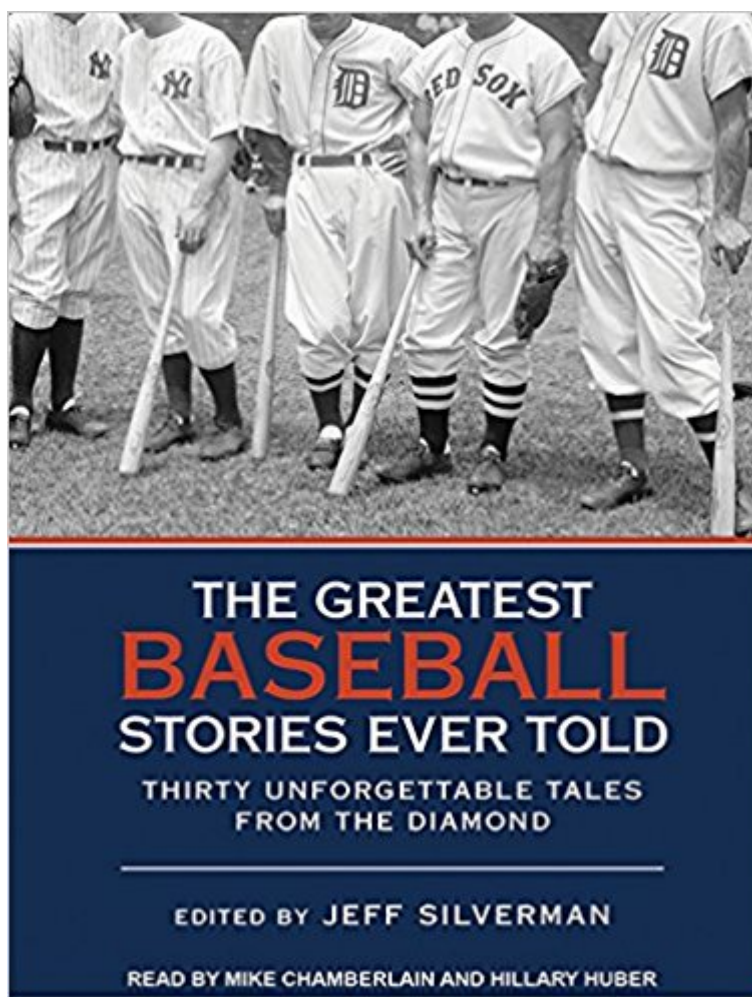


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# The Greatest Baseball Stories Ever Told: Thirty Unforgettable Tales From The Diamond



## Synopsis

At a 1931 barnstorming exhibition game in Tennessee, a seventeen-year-old pitcher for the Chattanooga Lookouts struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig back to back. Her name was Jackie Mitchell—"organized baseball's first girl pitcher." On September 9, 1965, Sandy Koufax made baseball history by pitching his fourth perfect game. In July 1970, a stripper rushed onto the field at Riverfront Stadium to kiss Johnny Bench, temporarily disrupting a game attended by President Nixon and his family. These are just some of the great, quirky, and comic moments in the annals of baseball recorded in *The Greatest Baseball Stories Ever Told*. Here also are profiles of such legendary figures as Joe DiMaggio, Pete Rose, and Yogi Berra, essays that explore the complexities and pleasures of the game, even an excerpt from the movie *Bull Durham*. This is the perfect book for anyone who has ever played so much as a game of catch.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Every once in a while, a book publisher comes up with a great concept for a series of books that deserve more than superficial recognition. Such a series is "The Greatest (fill in the blank) Stories Ever Told", anthologies that should win places on many bedside tables. On the long winter nights that lie ahead, such stories make great reading." —The Lexington County Chronicle --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

From the olden days of flannel uniforms and metal spikes to those of retractable-domed stadiums and nine-figure player salaries; from the golden era of Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb to that of present-day sluggers like Barry Bonds and Ken Griffey, Jr., perhaps no single athletic pursuit has

managed to capture the imagination and devotion of the sporting public as much as the game of baseball. And it is no wonder that some of our finest writers have weighed in on this rich and fascinating subject. In *The Greatest Baseball Stories Ever Told*, editor Jeff Silverman collects some of the best writings, both fact and realistic fiction, that reflect the resonant history, tradition, agony and ecstasy of what has been affectionately dubbed our national pastime. With contributions from: John Updike, Gay Talese, Pete Hamill, Gary Smith, Roy Blount, Jr., Red Barber, Zane Grey, Vin Scully, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and many more. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

The baseball stories that make up this book make it possible to call this book the *Greatest Baseball Stories Ever Told*. These stories have appeared in years past in the three Fireside books of baseball that are currently out of print. Since they are no longer available it would be advisable for you to strike while the iron is hot and buy this book. The book contains both fiction and non-fiction and certainly doesn't cover all the great stories that the Fireside books contain, but you can't argue with the thirty that make up this book. I would especially recommend this book for youngsters interested in baseball literature who weren't around to enjoy the Fireside books.

I bought it for a friend who absolutely loves it, Thanks, it shipped well and arrived safely, thanks again, Rod

My 18-year old cousin, who is a baseball player and fan, was totally into this as a Christmas gift last year. I had a hard time shopping for him because 18-year-old boys are just hard to shop for... but he really seemed to like this. He started reading stories immediately and spent a few hours with this book, even after opening up a bunch of video games :) Great gift for baseball fans, young and old!

I grew up with a father who taught me to love baseball, and at 67 remember many of these players. This book brings back so many memories to share with my own grandchildren. I can sit and read this book for hours and never be bored by the stories of players who were so much a part of my life in Los Angeles. I recommend this book to anyone who loves the game.

great gift for my great nephew....don't give money or clothes to children...give them books.

I recently purchased from , and now have read, three baseball anthologies: (1) *Baseball*, a hardbound Library of America Anthology, edited by Nicholas Dawidoff; 2) *Baseball's Best Short*

Stories, a quality paperback edited by Paul Staudohar, and (3) *The Greatest Baseball Stories Ever Told*, a quality paperback edited by Jeff Silverman. One need not be an informed fan of baseball, past or present, to treasure these stories. Baseball is the framework here; within are Americans intently observing, playing, and cherishing, America's Game. ¶ I reserve five stars for my tiptop favorites; the hardbound *Library of America Anthology* cited above I do especially applaud.

I don't know if these are truly the greatest baseball stories ever told, but they are certainly entertaining. I am a baseball fan, but I'm not especially learned in baseball history. These stories, all by a different author, have deepened my love for the game and engendered appreciation for the men who play the game, past and present. I admit up front that I am a die-hard Dodger fan. The chapter by Vin Scully on Sandy Koufax's perfect game gave me goose bumps. I learned my love of baseball from my father, so the chapter by Doris Kearns Goodwin was especially meaningful (brought tears to my eyes). She tells how her father taught her to keep a score book for the Brooklyn Dodger games, then relay to him, play by play the entire game when he came home from work. She tells how, when the score was close toward the end of a game, she had to ask her mother to take notes while she left the room because the anxiety was just too much to bear. I, too, have had to do this. Of course, the first chapter with Abbott and Costello's "Who's On First" is a classic whether you are a baseball fan or not. I enjoyed every page of this book and plan to pass it along to grandkids who also love the game of baseball.

A FEAST, A VERITABLE FEAST! I received this book on the 23rd of July, and I've been having a ball with it. Some of the stories are familiar to me because I've seen them elsewhere, but others are new. One of my favorites is the one about Yogi Berra and his connection, or lack of it, with yoga---however, I must mention two glaring omissions. The first is when the Yankees hired Bill Dickey to teach Berra how to catch; he said "Bill Dickey is learning me all his experience." Strictly speaking, this is not really a Yogi-ism; this usage was very common in Shakespeare's day, and if you read any of the plays you'll find this and other such vagaries of the English language. Second, nothing was mentioned about the fact that Mr. Berra was renowned as one of the best handlers of pitching staffs in either league. He knew his moundsmen as no one else could; he knew when a pitcher just needed a steadying hand and which one needed a good goosing to get him going. In any event, a most entertaining and enlightening read.

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