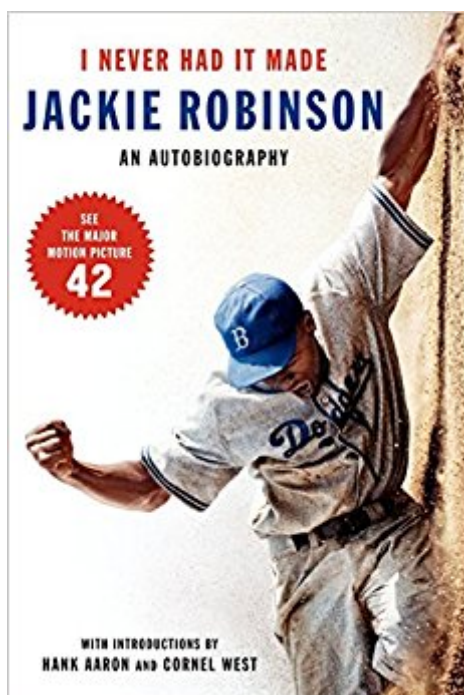


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I Never Had It Made: An Autobiography Of Jackie Robinson



Synopsis

The bestselling autobiography of American baseball and civil rights legend Jackie Robinson. Before Barry Bonds, before Reggie Jackson, before Hank Aaron, baseball's stars had one undeniable trait in common: they were all white. In 1947, Jackie Robinson broke that barrier, striking a crucial blow for racial equality and changing the world of sports forever. *I Never Had It Made* is Robinson's own candid, hard-hitting account of what it took to become the first black man in history to play in the major leagues. *I Never Had It Made* recalls Robinson's early years and influences: his time at UCLA, where he became the school's first four-letter athlete; his army stint during World War II, when he challenged Jim Crow laws and narrowly escaped court martial; his years of frustration, on and off the field, with the Negro Leagues; and finally that fateful day when Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers proposed what became known as the "Noble Experiment" — Robinson would step up to bat to integrate and revolutionize baseball. More than a baseball story, *I Never Had It Made* also reveals the highs and lows of Robinson's life after baseball. He recounts his political aspirations and civil rights activism; his friendships with Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, William Buckley, Jr., and Nelson Rockefeller; and his troubled relationship with his son, Jackie, Jr. *I Never Had It Made* endures as an inspiring story of a man whose heroism extended well beyond the playing field.

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Customer Reviews

This autobiography, which was originally published in 1972, the year Robinson died, is not about baseball: it's about the deep commitment that Robinson made to achieve justice for himself and all

Americans. He recalls his years at UCLA, where he became the school's first four-letter athlete and met his future wife, Rachel. With the advent of WWII he was drafted into the army, became a lieutenant and was court-martialed for refusing to move to the back of a bus. He was honorably discharged. He played for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues until he was recruited by Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1947 Robinson broke the color line in the major leagues and suffered terrible abuse for doing so. He discusses his relationships with the sports figures he admired, like Rickey and teammate Pee Wee Reese, and also recalls his run-ins with those he did not like, such as Dodger owner Walter O'Malley, who was "viciously antagonistic," and sportswriter Dick Young, a "racial bigot." Much of the book, written with freelancer Duckett, focuses on Robinson's political involvements after his career ended in 1956 and his friendships with such diverse characters as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, William Buckley and Nelson Rockefeller. The most wrenching episodes in the book deal with Jackie Jr., who overcame his heroin addiction only to be killed in an automobile accident at age 24 in 1971. A disturbing and enlightening self-portrait by one of America's genuine heroes. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book essentially enlarges upon matters Duckett had covered with Robinson in an earlier work, *Breakthrough to the Big League* (1965). Included are introductions by Hank Aaron and Cornel West that provide fresh perspectives on the significance of the legendary star's breaking of major league baseball's color barrier. With each retelling, it is clear that Robinson's story has become less a baseball story than a major cultural milestone in the nation's history. As George Will is quoted as saying, it was "one of the great achievements not only in the annals of sport, but of the human drama anywhere, anytime." Appropriate for both adult and young adult collections. William H. Hoffman, Ft. Myers-Lee Cty. P.L., Fla. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I never really thought about the backstory of how Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball. This really enlightened me to the risks involved. Only downfall of this book is the writing/editing. It seemed. Dry stream of consciousness, and sometimes parts didn't make sense, only to be more fully explained a few pages down. Otherwise, it was fascinating and engaging.

Jackie Robinson speaks from his heart in telling this first-person account of his life and career. While best known as an athlete and the first to break baseball's color barrier, he was also a

businessman, political activist, husband and father. He touches on all of these roles with candor and thoughtfulness, filling in personal details related to many of the people and events important to the mid-twentieth century. Although written over 40 years ago, this book still offers insights useful today. Some may find the writing style simple, but most readers should come away with an understanding of Mr. Robinson's ordeals and accomplishments, both professional and personal.

I really enjoyed this book but feel bad that race is still a major problem in the United States. Jackie Robinson tried so hard to make skin color not an issue in judging a person. He suffered doing this to help others so they wouldn't have to face the ugly American,

I was sixteen when Jackie signed with Brooklyn. I had played, and continued to play, a lot of baseball at many levels. In the course of time, I played with and against many blacks, several of whom became friends. In reading this book, I sincerely regret that I did not do more to help them. In retrospect, it is a cop out to say that times were different then. Ironically, in 1946, I was a Dodger fan, my father having lived in the same neighborhood as Leo Durocher, a person who had befriended blacks in his younger days. He and Jackie would have been a great pair.

This book gave me a new found respect for Jackie Robinson the man. A definite must buy for all fans of Robinson.

I'm not much of an avid reader unless it is a textbook, but this book had me from the beginning. I spent every free moment I could spare with my face in my iPad to continue enjoying this book. At first I thought it would mostly about his baseball life, but in fact that is only a minute part of his story. I would highly recommend this book as a must read

This book was wonderful. It not only shined light on Jackie Robinson's baseball career, it also shined light on his personal life. Not only was he courageous on the field, he was a great man off the field. This book is about a man who played baseball because of his love of the sport, not because of the money. Jackie Robinson will always be remembered as one of the greatest of all times on the field, as well as off for me. What a great book!

This was a great read from THE first hand point of view. The story from beginning to end tells you the true push and pull of emotions and physical tole that was placed on Jackie through his life

before and after baseball. Although I thought the story was great, I was a bit put off by the final few chapters of the book. It seemed that his own bitterness and resentment was apparent and he made me believe that he too harboured ill feelings towards those who continued to prevent black men and women opportunities even after massive strides had been made.

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