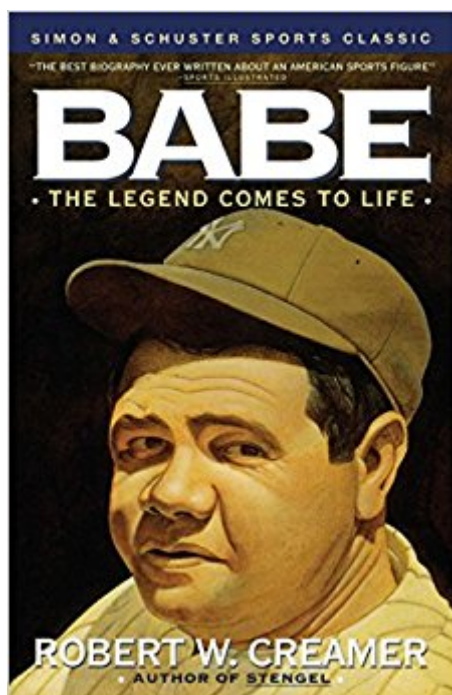


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Babe: The Legend Comes To Life



Synopsis

"I swing big, with everything I've got. I hit big or I miss big. I like to live as big as I can." -- Babe Ruth

Babe Ruth is without a doubt the most famous character ever produced by the sport of baseball. A legendary player, world-famous for his hitting prowess, he transcended the sport to enter the mainstream of American life as an authentic folk hero. In this extraordinary biography, noted sportswriter Robert W. Creamer reveals the complex man behind the sports legend. From Ruth's early days in a Baltimore orphanage, to the glory days with the Yankees, to his later years, Creamer has drawn a classic portrait of an American original.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sports Illustrated The best biography ever written about an American sports figure.

Robert W. Creamer is a senior writer for Sports Illustrated and has been a member of that magazine's staff since its inception in 1954. He is also the author of Stengel and Baseball in '41.

This book is a must read for lifelong baseball fans, or for anyone with a strong sense of American history. The history of baseball itself is inexorably entrenched in the fabric of American culture, and this book is worthy of being considered a historical work. Not that the experience of reading it is like absorbing some boring textbook. "Babe; The Legend Comes to Life" reads very much like a completely honest and straightforward biography. But more than that, the book is full of rich detail about the state of baseball itself, its inner workings, its role in culture, and the state of the country

as a whole, during the life and times of Ruth. Rather than engage in a purely sentimentalist canonization of the man who is the ultimate baseball icon, the author allows you to meet the real "Babe", and to revel in his real life idiosyncrasies, mannerisms, tribulations, joys, victories, defeats, the bright side of his character, along with his undeniable shortcomings. This book will make you feel like you have met the Babe, and followed his career firsthand.

Well, this is a really good story. The Babe had a complicated life and was able to rise above it all because of his baseball talent. Not just a great hitter, but also a great pitcher. His private life was, as you might have heard, somewhat calamitous. During his relatively short life, he did it all with sports, money, women, alcohol, cars and good times. He wanted to be loved and for the most part, he was. It was sad at the end of his career, when he wanted to manage but none of the major league teams would trust him to run a club because of his past shenanigans. Highly recommended. Great job by Robert Creamer. You can also see him on the Ken Burns video of Baseball where he talks extensively about the Babe.

I know that Babe Ruth is a baseball legend as a hitter but wasn't aware of his abilities as a pitcher. nor did I know much about the person or his life, on and off the field. Robert Creamer does credible research and presents Ruth as a human being with all his shortcomings. Ruth, too, was no mental giant yet there is a humanity about him, an innocence and non-sophistication that endears him to readers who only know of the name but not the person. I also hadn't realized how short his life and career were and that his best days ended in the early 30'. If you wish to know more about this simple man who had devastating power as a baseball icon, you won't be disappointed.

I love good biographies even if I don't have much sympathy for the sport, the time or the man/woman. They can bring a person to life and a era unlike a novel or any other medium. This is a good one, if not a great one about a legend. Baseball people dwell on statistics and this bio has plenty of those, but they are woven into and around the life of a man that stands as the Everest of baseball legends. I'm not necessarily a baseball "freak" or addict, but I sometimes read a topical book in and around an event or place. I picked this book because it is a baseball book in the "Fall Classic" time frame of the year and I don't watch baseball. This book made me interested. The bio part of the Ruth story is described in a way that makes the stats from the ball playing really come to life just as the title states! How good was Ruth? Was he the best ever? How did he compare to the modern player? These are the questions I had when I began the book. This book helped me arrive

at the answers to my own questions. How good was Ruth? So good even the greatest of the great were stunned by his baseball abilities. Was he the best ever? I think so, but you can decide. I can only be amazed that if it were not for his hall of fame hitting statistics, he might have become a hall of fame pitcher. Was he the best ever? Well, steroids have clouded the hitting stats and confused the comparisons, but overall I can think of no player to compare him to in all facets of the game, so my answer is "yes" he was the best ever. What kind of a person was he? Well, that is really what the book is about and I'll let other readers draw their own conclusions.

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