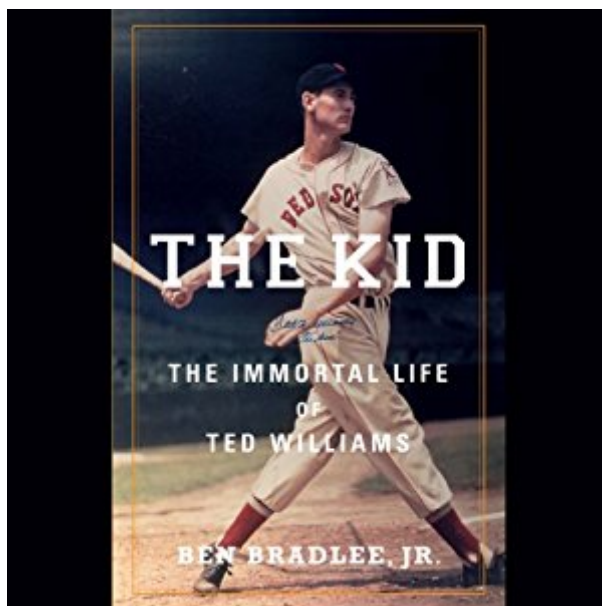


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The Kid: The Immortal Life Of Ted Williams



Synopsis

At long last, the epic biography Ted Williams deserves - and that his fans have been waiting for. Williams was the best hitter in baseball history. His batting average of .406 in 1941 has not been topped since, and no player who has hit more than 500 home runs has a higher career batting average. Those totals would have been even higher if Williams had not left baseball for nearly five years in the prime of his career to serve as a Marine pilot in WWII and Korea. He hit home runs farther than any player before him - and traveled a long way himself, as Ben Bradlee, Jr.'s grand biography reveals. Born in 1918 in San Diego, Ted would spend most of his life disguising his Mexican heritage. During his 22 years with the Boston Red Sox, Williams electrified crowds across America - and shocked them, too: His notorious clashes with the press and fans threatened his reputation. Yet while he was a God in the batter's box, he was profoundly human once he stepped away from the plate. His ferocity came to define his troubled domestic life. While baseball might have been straightforward for Ted Williams, life was not. The Kid is biography of the highest literary order, a thrilling and honest account of a legend in all his glory and human complexity. In his final at-bat, Williams hit a home run. Bradlee's marvelous book clears the fences, too. PLEASE NOTE: When you purchase this title, the accompanying reference material will be available in your My Library section along with the audio.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ted Williams was a tortured person, as this lengthy biography makes clear. But, oh my, what a hitter he was! The last player to hit .400. With a major league career that began in 1939, in 1957--at an

advanced age for a player--he hit .388. If he had any legs left, he may well have hit .400 if he would have been able to get some "leg hits."The book accomplishes several worthy goals. First, it provides a big picture description and analysis of his baseball career--from the time when he first started playing until his retirement. It shows a growth as a player--from indifferent to playing defense to becoming a pretty decent outfielder. The book depicts his approach to hitting very nicely. It also shows the volatile side of him, when he would lose his temper, publicly get into painful disputes with reporters, sometimes not hustling when he would become angry with someone, and so on. And the ways he would "psyche" himself for a game. For instance, taking swings in the locker room, he would say: "I'm Teddy [expletive deleted] Ballgame of the Major [expletive deleted] Leagues. How can this pitcher get me out with his [expletive deleted] pitching" (I could not retrieve the exact quotation, but this is close]. The book has his batting statistics at the end (page 785), and that is helpful, to get a sense of the trajectory of his career. Second, it gives a glimpse of Williams as a person. Not always pretty. He was married a number of times and the end result was often unpleasant. He had numerous affairs, had a wicked temper. In short, he tended to treat his wives badly. While his children would say that he was a good father, he was often away. And his personality. . . . He was obviously someone with some emotional/mental problems. He would sometimes get discouraged easily; he would lash out at people; and so on. Third, it portrays his distressing state near the end of his life. Health problems came up. His son was manipulative and tried to develop a career and lots of income, and he was not above misusing his father. Perhaps most distressing, he wanted to "freeze" his father after death, rather than allowing Williams to be cremated as he had requested. The story is that Williams finally agreed, but the book certainly makes it appear that his son and a daughter manipulated him into the decision. A richly told tale of a larger than life figure, with larger than life problems, who was a larger than life baseball player.

Great book, very minutely researched biography. Had to buy it because i kept putting off reading for other books. Now I can read it at my leisure. He my favorite player and I am a Red Sox fan, and I really enjoyed this book. Also a great reference source as well as trying to determine how his behavior came about from difficult childhood. Bright man, but difficult to those around him especially women and the Press.

After a decade of dogged lucubration and exhaustive interviews, Benjamin Bradlee, Jr. deserves, at the very least, an honorary doctorate from Cooperstown for his sprawling biography of the extraordinarily complex life of Theodore Samuel Williams. (1918-2002), the marvelous batsman,

superb fisherman, hunter, and lover of truly gorgeous women, none of whom he should have married because he was a born philanderer and a terrible father. When I was a little leaguer in the early 1950s, my dad bought me a huge Wilson baseball glove that bore the autograph of Ted Williams. It cost \$25.00 and to that time was the most expensive gift I had ever possessed. Because I idolized the Kid and loved the glove, I played with it until my senior year in college (1964). A year later I was a Marine officer in the rice paddies of Vietnam. Ted had been a Marine pilot and almost died in Korea. Ben Bradlee tells Ted's story in prodigious detail warts and all, but because it's such a big story, his narrative at times becomes desultory and quite boring like many academic dissertations. Victor L. Mote, Professor emeritus of geography, Russian Studies, and political science at The University of Houston Central Campus (1971-2011) author, teacher, researcher

Want to thank Mr. Bradlee for this effort. Certainly learned as much as can be about this true American legend!

Very informative to the point of boring.

great info on Ted, easy to read and enjoy

This exhaustively researched biography reveals so many details about the man, Ted Williams, from his life as a young boy left to raise himself until the day he died. From a complex, profane, troubled man to the best hitter baseball has ever seen to his service time during World War II and Korean War, this is a biography you shouldn't miss. Ten years in the making, Ben Bradlee, Jr. has shed so much light on Williams' personality including his many marriages and prolific flings. I'm always interested in what makes people 'tick' and this is a very revealing portrait of one of baseball greats.

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