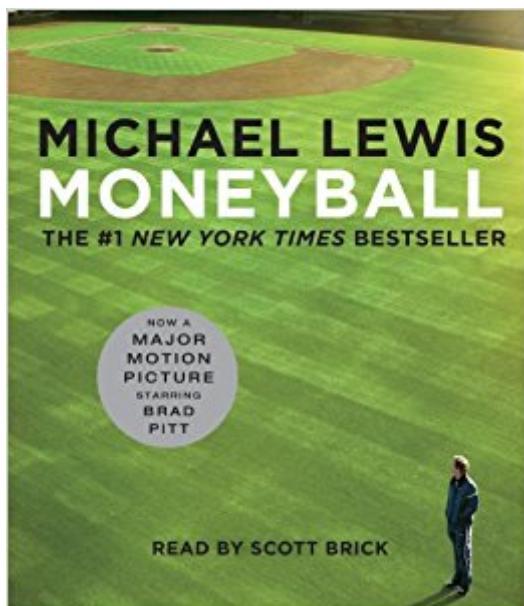The book was found

Moneyball: The Art Of Winning An Unfair Game

Synopsis

Moneyball is a quest for something as elusive as the Holy Grail, something that money apparently can't buy: the secret of success in baseball. The logical places to look would be the giant offices of major league teams and the dugouts. But the real jackpot is a cache of numbers collected over the years by a strange brotherhood of amateur baseball enthusiasts: software engineers, statisticians, Wall Street analysts, lawyers, and physics professors.In a narrative full of fabulous characters and brilliant excursions into the unexpected, Lewis shows us how and why the new baseball knowledge works. He also sets up a sly and hilarious morality tale: Big Money, like Goliath, is always supposed to win . . . how can we not cheer for David?

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Random House Audio; Abridged edition (June 21, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739317741

ISBN-13: 978-0739317747

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.2 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars   1,313 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #770,472 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #53 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Sports & Outdoors   #179 inÃ Â Books > Business & Money > Industries > Sports & Entertainment > Entertainment   #253 inÃ Â Books > Business & Money > Industries > Sports & Entertainment > Sports

Customer Reviews

Billy Beane, general manager of MLB's Oakland A's and protagonist of Michael Lewis's Moneyball, had a problem: how to win in the Major Leagues with a budget that's smaller than that of nearly every other team. Conventional wisdom long held that big name, highly athletic hitters and young pitchers with rocket arms were the ticket to success. But Beane and his staff, buoyed by massive amounts of carefully interpreted statistical data, believed that wins could be had by more affordable methods such as hitters with high on-base percentage and pitchers who get lots of ground outs. Given this information and a tight budget, Beane defied tradition and his own scouting department to build winning teams of young affordable players and inexpensive castoff veterans. Lewis was in the room with the A's top management as they spent the summer of 2002 adding and subtracting

players and he provides outstanding play-by-play. In the June player draft, Beane acquired nearly every prospect he coveted (few of whom were coveted by other teams) and at the July trading deadline he engaged in a tense battle of nerves to acquire a lefty reliever. Besides being one of the most insider accounts ever written about baseball, Moneyball is populated with fascinating characters. We meet Jeremy Brown, an overweight college catcher who most teams project to be a 15th round draft pick (Beane takes him in the first). Sidearm pitcher Chad Bradford is plucked from the White Sox triple-A club to be a key set-up man and catcher Scott Hatteberg is rebuilt as a first baseman. But the most interesting character is Beane himself. A speedy athletic can't-miss prospect who somehow missed, Beane reinvents himself as a front-office guru, relying on players completely unlike, say, Billy Beane. Lewis, one of the top nonfiction writers of his era (Liar's Poker, The New New Thing), offers highly accessible explanations of baseball stats and his roadmap of Beane's economic approach makes Moneyball an appealing reading experience for business people and sports fans alike. --John Moe --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Lewis (Liar's Poker; The New New Thing) examines how in 2002 the Oakland Athletics achieved a spectacular winning record while having the smallest player payroll of any major league baseball team. Given the heavily publicized salaries of players for teams like the Boston Red Sox or New York Yankees, baseball insiders and fans assume that the biggest talents deserve and get the biggest salaries. However, argues Lewis, little-known numbers and statistics matter more. Lewis discusses Bill James and his annual stats newsletter, Baseball Abstract, along with other mathematical analysis of the game. Surprisingly, though, most managers have not paid attention to this research, except for Billy Beane, general manager of the A's and a former player; according to Lewis, "[B]y the beginning of the 2002 season, the Oakland A's, by winning so much with so little, had become something of an embarrassment to Bud Selig and, by extension, Major League Baseball." The team's success is actually a shrewd combination of luck, careful player choices and Beane's first-rate negotiating skills. Beane knows which players are likely to be traded by other teams, and he manages to involve himself even when the trade is unconnected to the A's. "`Trawling' is what he called this activity," writes Lewis. "His constant chatter was a way of keeping tabs on the body of information critical to his trading success." Lewis chronicles Beane's life, focusing on his uncanny ability to find and sign the right players. His descriptive writing allows Beane and the others in the lively cast of baseball characters to come alive.Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I loved the movie, but the book was tons better. I know, I know. That's always the case, right? Well, this is one of the very few books that I actually read all the way through, so lay off me! It was a very quick read. I had a hard time getting to a stopping point because it all wove together so nicely. I enjoyed the extra stuff in it regarding the response to the original edition of the book and the movie. I purchased the movie from after reading this book so that I could enjoy the movie over and over again. It sounds stupid, but the movie makes more sense now that I have read the book.I felt that Lewis's writing was solid and fair. My favorite criticism was that people trashed the book as Billy Beane's ode to himself, having no clue that Billy Beane didn't even write the book. I gathered that the critics are much like a majority of Facebook users that don't bother actually reading the article, they just blast off commentary based on the thumbnail and the headline. "That's almost as annoying as quoting yourself!" - M. KlongpayabalThe book was great and I would encourage everyone, supporters and detractors alike, to read this and take from it what you will after that. I've seen some of the sabermetrics talked about in the book put into actual practice and I think that it has a place in baseball and can be helpful. I downloaded this as an e-reader, but I assume that the print version is the same. I don't know if that matters to anyone, but in case you are a die hard print fan and want to get into the etheo-sociological impact of e-readers versus print, then this is hardly the place for it.Please take your wares elsewhere as there are plenty of decent people hanging around reading reviews that don't need your meddling or social stirring! Go! Get thee to Facebook!

Michael Lewis is a great author, and this book is another solid piece by him. Eye-opening look at the sport, and if you're a fan things will make more sense to you when you start screaming at your team about drafting some fat washed up guy.

Have watched the movie several times, wanted more information. This was more than I needed, but satisfied my curiosity about the underlying facts and the reality of the story. Baseball fans would probably love the book more than I did!

Wow! I saw the movie(loved it), but appreciate the detail in this book. I think it was Frank Lloyd Wright who said those with constraints built most beautifully. But how do you operate when the constraints are people, culture, and tradition with loads of money to ignore you? I love it when people find their true calling. Very inspiring! I'll steal a politician's line who said running against someone was like "running against Mt. Rushmore." To actually turn everything upside-down in baseball really takes a man beyond confident. Easy to read, but you need to know something about

baseball and scouting to feel how riveting to live through this must've been excruciating for everyone involved. Whoever played Grady in the movie should've gotten an Oscar. He was outstanding!!!!!!

I thought the premise of this book was fascinating. And it would have made an excellent long-form magazine article. But there really isn't enough substance to make a book out of it."Billy Bean was a really good baseball player, with great stats. Billy Bean choked in the majors. Billy Bean made a team out of players who were but statistically valuable but conventionally unimpressive." Ad nauseam.Additionally, the narrative is extremely disjointed. It jumps around between the time when Bean was playing, and different periods of his coaching career, with little reference. If you aren't a big enough baseball fan to know who got drafted in what year, you have little chance of connecting the chapters of this book.

Glad that I finally read this book. Having played rotisserie baseball for years, I was exposed to many of the aspects shown in this book. It was great to see how the writer could clearly expose the baseball biases by allegedly honest men. Loved the book and will continue to enjoy baseball the way it should be enjoyed.

This is a highly informative and hilarious book that takes you inside the realm of Major League Baseball player selection and the analysis behind it, that enabled the Oakland As to have the second-highest regular-season win percentage of all teams in 2001 and 2002, with roughly 1/3 the team budget of the richest teams. And in 2003 they had the 4th-highest regular-season win percentage. How did they do it? Read it and find out -- but here is a hint: it involves their rigorous analysis of player skills and key baseball dynamics, as well as their personal skills in building the team. Michael Lewis' insider view is informative and hilarious -- just like Lewis' other books. Highly recommended.

Great read for baseball fans. A bit colored by the popular movie - frequently drawn back to moments dramatized by the film. Still some interesting insights on the history of baseball metrics.

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game Game of Thrones: 100 Question Trivia Game For True Fans (Epic Fantasy Series, Game of Thrones Books, Game of Thrones, Fantasy Books) (Epic Fantasy, Fantasy ... TV, TV Guide, Game of Thrones Book) Moneyball Moneyball for Government,

Second Edition How to Win the Lottery: Secret Techniques, Tips and Tactics to Give You an Unfair Advantage and Significantly Improve Your Chances of Winning the Lottery Drawing Basics and Video Game Art: Classic to Cutting-Edge Art Techniques for Winning Video Game Design Blackjack Strategy: Winning at Blackjack:Tips and Strategies for Winning and Dominating at the Casino (Blackjack, Counting Cards, Blackjack Winning, Good at Blackjack, Black Jack, Card Counting) Winning Lacrosse for Girls (Winning Sports for Girls) (Winning Sports for Girls (Paperback)) Winning Softball for Girls (Winning Sports for Girls) (Winning Sports for Girls (Paperback)) Winning Basketball for Girls (Winning Sports for Girls) (Winning Sports for Girls (Paperback)) Unscrambled - The Ultimate Anagram Solver for Scrabble, Words With Friends, and most popular word games! (Word Buff's Totally Unfair Word Game Guides Book 3) Crossword Ease - The Secret Language of Crossword Puzzles (Word Buff's Totally Unfair Word Game Guides Book 1) Play Winning Checkers: Official Mensa Game Book (w/registered Icon/trademark as shown on the front cover) (Play Winning Checkers/Draughts 1) Lottery Winning Systems:Turns a Game of Luck into a Game of Skill! Solitaire Game: Ultimate Player's Guide, Game Rules and Winning Tips Equal Is Unfair: America's Misguided Fight Against Income Inequality The Moral Underground: How Ordinary Americans Subvert an Unfair Economy Cut Loose: Jobless and Hopeless in an Unfair Economy Aced: Superior Interview Skills to Gain an Unfair Advantage to Land Your DREAM JOB! Unfair Advantage: The Power of Financial Education