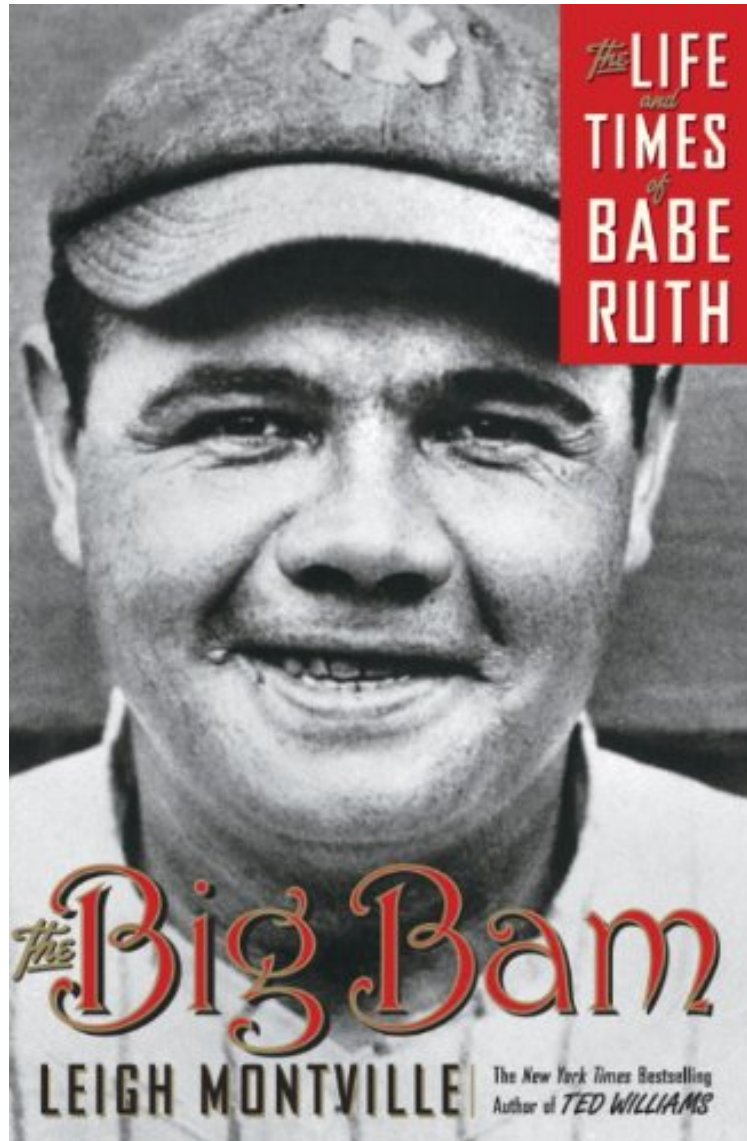


(Mobile pdf) The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth

## The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth

Von Leigh Montville

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**Von Leigh Montville : The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An Exciting Update of Babe Ruth's Legend!Von Donald MitchellFor those of us who grew up listening to baseball games on the radio rather than seeing them on television, this abridged audio is a real treat. Leigh Montville's dramatic story of the Sultan of Swat, the Bambino, the Big Bam, comes to life as Adam Grupper recounts both observed (the "called"

home run) and recreated moments in this fine recording. After all, would you rather read about someone hitting the longest home run in a given ball park . . . or listen to a virtually breathless account of the same? I know which I would choose . . . every time! Leigh Montville is one of our most talented sportswriters. He could just as easily be covering a more important beat (such as the White House) or writing novels. He's that good. Why do I say that? He takes a single fact, Babe Ruth ended up in a reform school/orphanage for most of his young life, and creates a mental image of what might have happened on that morning when his father took him to St. Mary's. While relating that tale, Mr. Montville deftly points out how little we know about Babe Ruth the man (as opposed to Babe Ruth the baseball player) and why we probably won't ever know very much. I especially enjoyed Mr. Montville's description of "the fog" . . . or the dense mystery about so much of Babe Ruth's life (Why did his parents abandon him? Why wouldn't he talk about his youth? Why did his wife die in another man's bed? Why did he gamble so recklessly?). Naturally, the baseball player is more visible. Mr. Montville constructs a helpful picture of the endless baseball activities at St. Mary's, how Babe Ruth probably learned his upper cut swing that revolutionized baseball (in an era when everyone else hit down on the ball), how Babe Ruth was discovered, the transition from being a pitcher to being an everyday player and hitter, how Babe Ruth really ended up traded from the Red Sox to the Yankees, and why he was exiled from baseball after his playing days were over. But the private person is also revealed in powerful vignettes such as the Babe's loyalty to St. Mary's and orphanages, the terrible racial taunting he received from those who believed him to be an African-American, his non-stop pace on limited sleep, and his making up with his father. Naturally, as a long-time baseball fan, I felt I knew about Babe Ruth. But my picture was slightly out of focus. Experiencing the play-by-play of his life made the Babe come to life for me more than ever before. Mr. Montville also does an excellent job of explaining why so much remains murky about the Babe's life -- both in terms of the Babe's reticence and the code of conduct that the press observed in those more restrained reporting days. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Man and the Legend Von James Gallen "The Big Bam" tells the fascinating story of the man behind the legend. Author Leigh Montville does an excellent job of intertwining the man into the baseball hero, without neglecting either. Babe Ruth was a character "from the wrong side of the tracks" whose make-up was often "lost in the fog." Was he really part Negro? Who were the parents of his daughter? We may never know for sure. Raised in St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, he first learned to play ball from the Xavierian Brothers who ran the school. Growing up with nothing, he exercised no restraint when he had everything. The tales of his undisciplined drinking (including during prohibition) and philandering leave the reader aghast at the life style led by the Babe. The failure of his first marriage and strange relationship with his daughter baffle the mind. Yet, through it all, Ruth emerges as worthy of hero worship and, in the end, a sympathetic character, a big kid who never grew up. The Sultan of Swat is never ignored in the book. For the baseball fan, this book highlights a legendary career and brings out some facts that may have gone unnoticed. For example, I have seen pictures of the window he broke across the street from Sportsman's Park, but I never knew that he was pitching for the Red Sox that day. I had not realized that he was the one who wanted to quit pitching in order to hit more. His sparring with the owners and his managers make for interesting reading. His performance is even more astonishing when compared to his contemporaries, such as the year that he hit more home runs than six teams in the American League. Ultimately, it was his undisciplined character which defeated his last dream, that of managing in the major leagues. This is a good read for any fan of the Golden Age of Baseball. It makes you admire the athlete and understand the man. Play Ball!

Kurzbeschreibung National Bestseller He was the Sultan of Swat. The Caliph of Clout. The Wizard of Whack. The Bambino. And simply, to his teammates, the Big Bam. Babe Ruth was more than baseball's original superstar. For eighty-five years, he has remained the sports reigning titan. He has been named Athlete of the Century . . . more than once. But who was this large, loud, enigmatic man? Why is so little known about his childhood, his private life, and his inner thoughts? In *The Big Bam*, Leigh Montville, whose recent New York Times bestselling biography of Ted Williams garnered glowing reviews and offered an exceptionally intimate look at Williams' life, brings his trademark touch to this groundbreaking, revelatory portrait of the Babe. From the award-winning author of the New York Times bestseller *Ted Williams* comes the thoroughly original, definitively ambitious, and exhilaratingly colorful biography of the largest legend ever to loom in baseball and in the history of organized sports. Based on newly discovered documents and interviews including pages from Ruth's personal scrapbooks *The Big Bam* traces Ruth's life from his bleak childhood in Baltimore to his brash entrance into professional baseball, from Boston to New York and into the record books as the world's most explosive slugger and cultural luminary. From Booklist In this day of overamped salaries, statistics, and physiques, it's useful to be reminded of the singular talent and impact Babe Ruth brought to baseball during his career (1914-35). He owned most of the hitting records for decades, including single-season and career home runs--and all this during the "dead ball" era. Even now, the baseball fan can only be awed by what Ruth accomplished, not to mention the adulation he engendered. And if Robert Creamer's highly readable *Babe* (1974) is still the benchmark biography, Montville (*Ted Williams*, 2004) brings fresh observations to his subject, one

being that Ruth probably suffered from attention-deficit disorder, which accounts for his inexhaustible energy for everything from baseball to food to alcohol to sex, not necessarily in that order. And in his vivid account of the years Ruth spent at St. Mary's orphanage in Baltimore, Montville gives readers the measure of what made the man. Montville has also carefully sifted the factual from the hearsay, leaving us with a volume that's reliable, readable, and deserving of a place in the sports or American culture collection. Alan MooresCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedPressestimmenA comprehensive look at a gargantuan life. PeopleMontville is refreshingly nonjudgmental about his superstar subject. First-rate biography. Los Angeles Times Book Crisp analogies and astute observations, combined with a fluid writing style, are Leigh Montvilles strengths in this definitive biography of the Splendid Splinter. Montvilles writing is rich and full, like a Ted Williams swing. He connects solidly. A raw, no-holds-barred view of [Williamss] life. Tampa TribuneAn engaging, fascinating read. San Diego TribuneTed Williams is not only a first-rate sports biography, but also a first-rate biography, period. Baltimore Sun