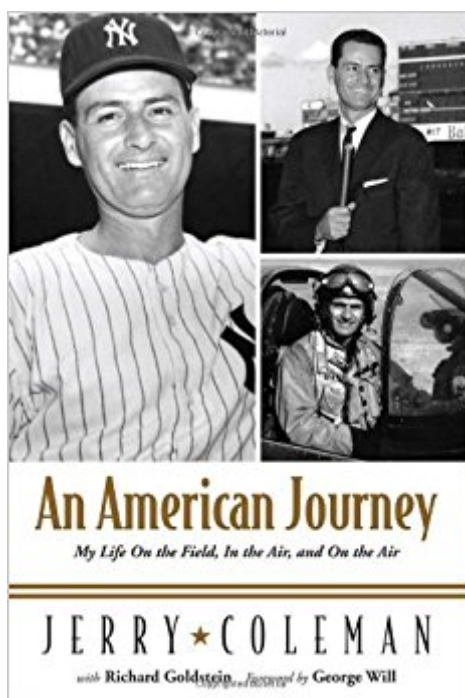


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An American Journey: My Life On The Field, In The Air, And On The Air



Synopsis

In *An American Journey*, Jerry Coleman, along with journalist Richard Goldstein, writes for the first time about the family violence and the hardship he endured as a child, his memories of serving in two armed conflicts, and what it was like playing professional baseball with Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, and Joe DiMaggio. Coleman is also unflinchingly honest about his short managing career and provides a behind-the-scenes look at his many years in the broadcast booth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"No broadcaster has earned a more affectionate following than Jerry Coleman. When you read this memoir, you will not only know why, you will join his legions of followers." --from the foreword by George Will

"There are only two important things in life: the people who you love and who love you, and your country." These words have shaped every moment of Jerry Coleman's life. The result is a man who is beloved by his family, friends, former teammates, fellow veterans, and millions of baseball fans around the world. Born in San Jose, California, and raised in San Francisco, Coleman endured a childhood marred by family turmoil and violence, but that environment failed to dampen an optimistic spirit that would later endear him to fans across the nation. Traveling across the country to play for the legendary New York Yankees in the days of DiMaggio and Mantle, Coleman twice put a halt to his promising career and traveled across the globe to serve his country during World War II and the

Korean War, the only Major League Baseball player to ever do so. After retiring as one of the most decorated players in team history, Coleman began his second career as a baseball broadcaster for CBS, the Yankees, and eventually the San Diego Padres, where he has become the voice of the team to an entire generation of fans. Even a detour to the dugout, where he managed the 1980 Padres to a losing record, did little to shake Coleman's love for the game, or the fans' love for him. In *An American Journey*, Coleman's own words paint a portrait of a man too humble to acknowledge a fact those around him have always accepted: Jerry Coleman is one of the most admirable and popular men in the history of baseball.

Jerry Coleman has honorably served America both as a military man, as a baseball player during the 1950's for the New York Yankees, and as an announcer for the Yankees, CBS, and as an announcer/manager for the San Diego Padres. He considers his greatest achievement in life to be the five years he spent as a marine during both World War II and the Korean War. He grew up in a home with a physically abusive father, and a very devoted mother. His best friends with the Yankees were Allie Reynolds, Vic Raschi, Ed Lopat, Bobby Brown, and Charlie Silvera. Coleman believes Mickey Mantle's alcohol problems became full blown after he retired from the game and the cheering stopped. Coleman vividly recalls the incident in May of 1957 when Yankees' infielder Gil McDougald lined Cleveland Indians' pitcher Herb Score in the eye. This had a great emotional effect on McDougald who considered quitting the game. Coleman's one year at the helm of the Padres did not go well. His players viewed him as the team's announcer, and a relic from the past. Coleman gives his views on various things regarding the game such as the size of players compared to when he played, and the effect large contracts can have on some players. He blames the players' union for fighting against a strong drug program which has ultimately harmed players who play by the rules. Coleman considers Aaron to be the all-time home run leader with Maris to be the home run leader for a single season. This book is light easy reading, and I enjoyed reading about one of the bubble gum cards of my youth.

This is an excellent book by a true icon, a great athlete, a great leader, and a true hero. I am 'prejudiced' by being a San Diegan, but Jerry did a terrific job describing his life and his times - I am 'prejudiced' as I am a former Marine -but we need to be proud of these guys who gave up more of their 'privileged' lives to go serve their Country - how many of these high paid, spoiled, selfish athletes today would do what Jerry Coleman did? This is a book that describes people in an era who worked together for a common goal (pennants), and for the betterment of their communities and

Country.

George Will presents Jerry Coleman, the man, in his various roles. While the book evokes admiration for Mr. Coleman's military and athletic accomplishments, it is the presentation of his humanity that makes this a worthwhile read. One of the better biographies of a sports figure.

I know Coleman as a broadcaster for the Padres. The book gave me insight to his playing and his military career.

Good account of an interesting life; the only ballplayer who actually saw combat in both WWII and Korea. Would have been better if more willing to "name names" about players he clashed with during brief tenure as manager of Padres, but he was too much of a class act to dish dirt. We could use more like him.

I was never a Yankee fan, but I admired many of their players of yore. Coleman has led quite an interesting life. Speaking as a Vietnam combat veteran, I can relate to his experiences during both WWII & Korea. Jerry was an underrated ballplayer, but he doesn't blow his horn about that. Malaprops aside, he is a knowledgeable announcer. Only flaw is my disagreeing with him about the game today, but Jerry certainly is entitled to his opinion.

I really enjoy Jerry as an announcer and enjoyed his book immensely. I only wish that he was partnered on the air with a baseball person with a baseball voice over these past 20+ yrs. When he quits I will quit listening to the Padres via radio. Five Stars for Jerry and his disclosures.

A wonderful book about the career of an American hero, and his amazing life as a baseball player, pilot, coach, play by play radio and tv announcer.

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