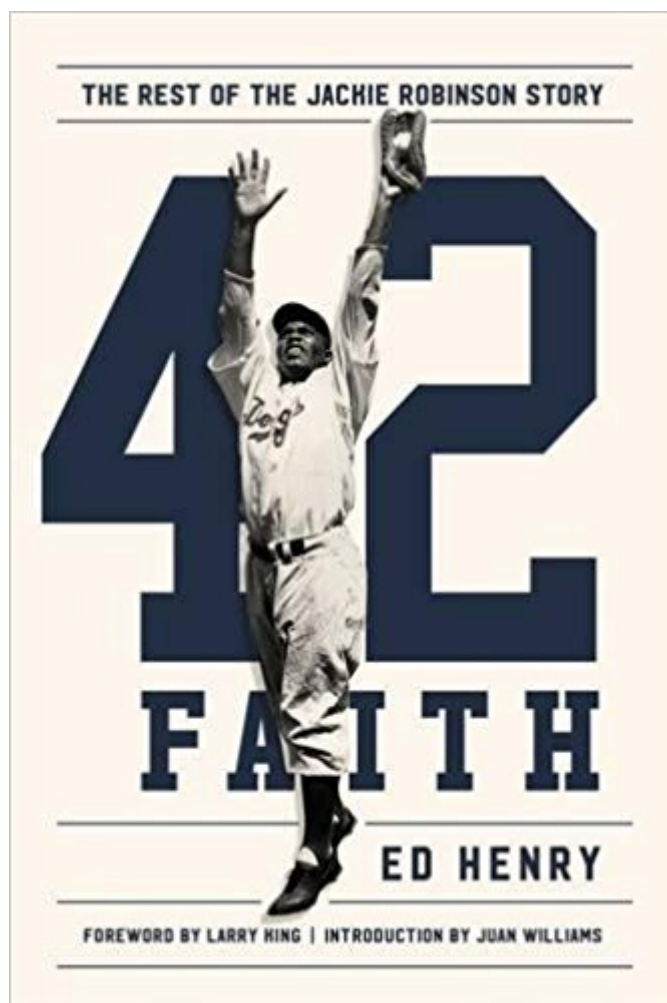


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42 Faith: The Rest Of The Jackie Robinson Story



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller Jackie Robinson, Branch Rickey, and the hidden hand of God that changed history—Journalist and baseball lover Ed Henry reveals for the first time the backstory of faith that guided Jackie Robinson into not only the baseball record books but the annals of civil rights advancement as well. Through recently discovered sermons, interviews with Robinson's family and friends, and even an unpublished book by the player himself, Henry details a side of Jackie's humanity that few have taken the time to see. Branch Rickey, the famed owner who risked it all by signing Jackie to his first contract, is also shown as a complex individual who wanted nothing more than to make his God-fearing mother proud of him. Few know the level at which Rickey struggled with his decision, only moving forward after a private meeting with a minister he'd just met. It turns out Rickey was not as certain about signing Robinson as historians have always assumed. With many baseball stories to enthrall even the most ardent enthusiast, *42 Faith* also digs deep into why Jackie was the man he was and what both drove him and challenged him after his retirement. From his early years before baseball, to his time with Rickey and the Dodgers, to his failing health in his final years, we see a man of faith that few have recognized. This book will add a whole new dimension to Robinson's already awe-inspiring legacy. Yes, Jackie and Branch are both still heroes long after their deaths. Now, we learn more fully than ever before, there was an assist from God too.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ed Henry serves as Fox News Channel's chief White House correspondent. He joined the network

in June 2011. Throughout his tenure at FNC, Henry has covered all major news stories involving President Obama and his administration. Henry has won numerous journalism honors, including the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress and the White House Correspondents Association's Merriman Smith Award for excellence in presidential coverage under deadline pressure in 2008. Henry also served in the prestigious post of president of the White House Correspondents' Association from 2012-2013, after being elected in an unopposed election by his peers in the White House press corps. Prior to joining FNC, Henry was at CNN from 2004-2011, where he served as the network's senior White House correspondent and a congressional correspondent. Henry began his career working for Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jack Anderson and later joined the newspaper Roll Call as a reporter, where he rose to senior editor. Henry graduated from Siena College with a B.A. in English.

It was very unusual for a white kid to have a black hero in 1947, even in the more liberal parts of the country, such as the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Area, where I then lived. But it was while listening to the 1947 World Series between the New York Yankees and Brooklyn Dodgers on the radio that I adopted Jackie Robinson as my sports hero. All my friends were rooting for the Yankees, the All-American good guys who were led by Joltin' Joe DiMaggio, a hometown hero. The bums from Brooklyn were the bad guys. It seemed to play out as good vs. evil. Probably because my father was born in Brooklyn and grew up there, with my grandfather still living there, I rooted for the Dodgers, and Robinson, emerging then as their best player, became my favorite player. I don't recall race being a factor or consideration, although I do remember two uncles and several friends ribbing me about idolizing a black player. The more they ribbed me, the more I rooted for Robinson. I have fond memories of watching Robinson play at Ebbets Field and the Polo Grounds, as well as in Oakland when the Jackie Robinson All-Stars played an exhibition game there in 1951 during the off-season. I was first in line to see "The Jackie Robinson Story" when it was released in 1950. I have a very vivid recollection of getting his autograph as my friend Bill Delaney and I waited for him to enter the clubhouse during that Oakland visit. I have followed baseball for more than 70 years and Robinson remains the most exciting player I have ever seen. Chills run down my spine when I visualize him leading off third base, dancing around to taunt the pitcher, then taking off in a steal of home. Many of my memories were relived as I read this excellent book by Ed Henry. I had read about or heard many of the stories about Robinson's struggle to become the first African-American to play major league baseball before, but there were some I had not previously heard or which I did not

recall. I don't recall reading about the effects of his Christian upbringing on him, and I was quite surprised to find out that he taught Sunday school while starring in four sports at UCLA. And while I knew that Branch Rickey, the Dodgers' general manager, was the man most responsible for giving Robinson the opportunity to break the color barrier, I never realized how important his faith was to him and the role it played in his motivation. There was much in this book about Rickey I did not know and I now have a much greater appreciation of him than I previously had. He deserves sainthood. This book should be required reading for young people of all races. It is a story of overcoming adversity with faith and determination while making the most of one's God-given abilities. At the same time, it is a valuable history lesson, one in which twists of fate leave much for the reader to philosophically ponder on.

As a Brooklyn born Grandfather I am proud to say that my Granddaughters are now the fourth generation of our family that loves and idolizes and emulates on the playing field our beloved Jackie Robinson. The first Major League game I ever attended was with my Dad at good old Ebbets Field to see our beloved *Brooklyn-Bums* play. It was the last game of the 1956 season and the Dodgers had to win to win the National League pennant. The Dodgers not only won the game to win the pennant but Jackie hit a home-run. What I and the world at large had no way of knowing was that this was the last regular season Major League game the great Jackie Robinson would ever play! I have read just about every major book on Jackie Robinson published in the last half century so if you ask me why?... or should I read this one??? I will tell you why I recommend it. First of all I would say about seventy-five-per-cent of the information I already knew inside and out but when it comes to Jackie that's not quite as bad as it sounds. But there are two main reasons why I strongly recommend it even to fans that have read and lived Jackie-42 as feverishly and as dedicated to his accomplishments on and off the field as I have and above all someone who lived and died with every ounce of **HAVOC** he created on the bases. The author's research which included not only interviews with people who knew or were involved in and may not have openly shared their intimate knowledge of Jackie's belief and faith in God but also Ed Henry's research into Jackie's unpublished memoir and other documents in the Library of Congress. The author invested the same dedication to digging deeper into Branch Rickey's true faith also. Just as "The Great Experiment" could have never been successfully accomplished without the teamwork that included fighting

stereotypes and prejudices about bean balls flying-sharpened-spikes their own doubts and beliefs. The teamwork of Mr. Rickey and Jackie Robinson created a feeling in Jackie that Mr. Rickey was the Father-figure he never had. It also turns out that both of their faith in the Good Lord bound them as strongly as the ultimate goal in changing the world itself. That's where the author digs deeper than any of the myriad of books I have consumed with an undeterred passion throughout my life. It is also quite interesting in Henry's up-to-the-minute follow-up on the 1951 New York Giant signal stealing saga which includes an in depth look at Ralph Branca the man as well as the player. Not only in the classy way he handled giving up "The Shot Heard Round The World" but his lifelong friendship with Bobby Thomson the guy who hit it off him. Interestingly Branca a practicing Christian found out that his "Mother, Kati, had emigrated from Hungary, when a reader contacted the author of "The Echoing Green" (the expose on the 1951 cheating Giants by Joshua Prager) wondering if Kati was Jewish. Kati was a practicing Catholic, but Prager found records showing she was actually Jewish, and that two of her siblings were killed at concentration camps during the Holocaust. By traditional Jewish law, he was Jewish too. "Branca had always been a practicing Catholic himself, and he smiled as he told Prager, "Maybe that's why G-d's mad at me" that I didn't practice my Mother's religion. He made me throw that home run pitch. He made me get injured the next year. Remember, Jesus was a Jew. "Anyone that knows anything about any Jackie Robinson or Brooklyn Dodger stories knows that any real concise behind the scenes stories almost assuredly include heavy doses of quotes from one of the all-time Dodger gentleman Carl "Oisk" Erskine. And this book thankfully relies heavily on the old Brooklyn favorite. G-d bless you "Oisk"! I also would like to positively mention the author's acknowledgement pages at the end of the book. I might have one other time out of a thousand said anything positive about any author's acknowledgements But Henry's story about his Father and also Red Barber are wonderful. In closing what makes this book worthwhile to a guy like me after all the years and all the previously read and life experienced with Jackie and my Boys-In-Blue is the fact that Ed Henry handles this entire book every page every incident every person with such a delicate dignity and respect a total reverence for a great man time and place that is so refreshing and appreciated!

Ed Henry delves into the life and faith of Jackie Robinson with the same journalistic curiosity for which he is known and admired in politics. Using never before published first-hand sources of Jackie's own words, readers get a window into the private thoughts and feelings of this very public hero. Simultaneously, the reader is brought along with Ed to share a cup of coffee or enjoy a cigar with Jackie's closest colleagues, teammates and family members, gaining insight into the community surrounding Robinson at that pivotal time. The personal stories and reflections are entertaining and revealing, presented in an intimately warm way, highlighting the faith and deeper truths behind that historic period in baseball and in America. This is sure to be a beloved addition to the Robinson lore. PSG, Life-long Dodger fan and Author

I purchased 42 for a retired sportswriter and he was not aware of many stories that Ed Henry had related from his many interviews with Jackie Robinson's teammates. I am sure this story of Jackie and his life will continue to inspire those who have challenges in life and knowing that faith in God will overcome all challenges

Ed Henry does a beautiful job of weaving together multiple things in this book: he tells the story of Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson from a baseball standpoint; he tells the story from a civil rights standpoint; and he presents loads of fascinating information about the great Yankees - Dodgers - Giants rivalries and about the players and managers involved. This is a terrific book and I highly recommend it.

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