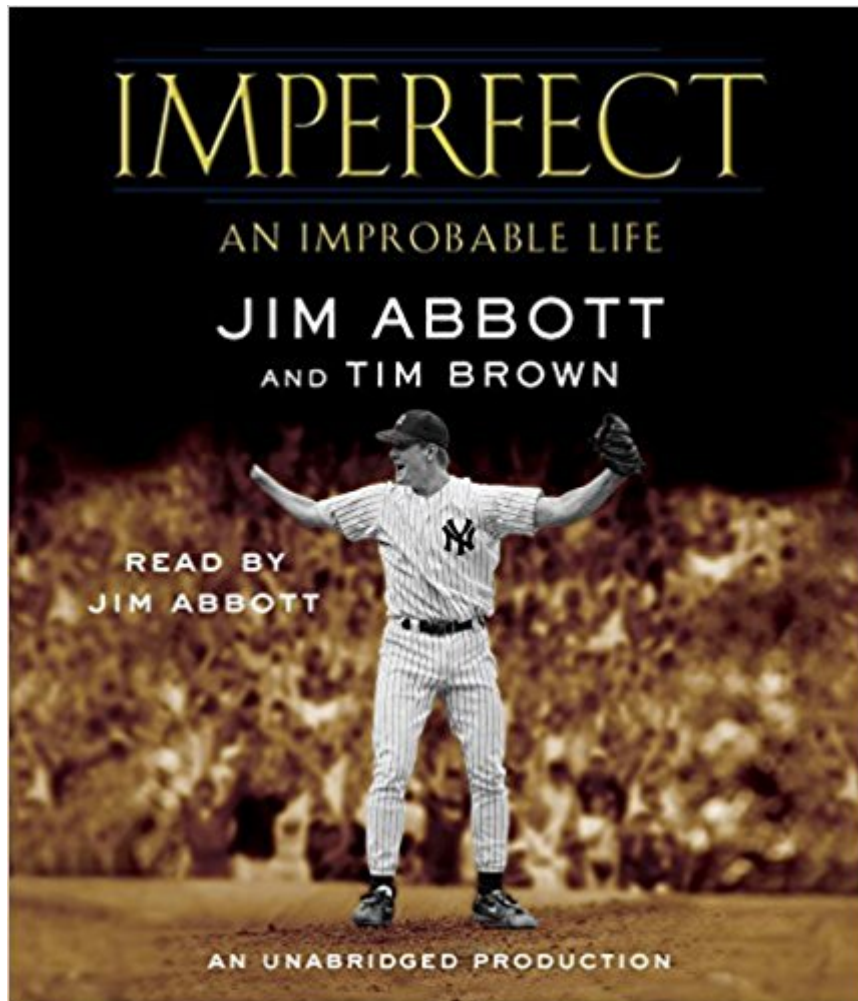




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Imperfect: An Improbable Life



Synopsis

On an overcast September day in 1993, Jim Abbott took the mound at Yankee Stadium and threw one of the most dramatic no-hitters in major-league history. The game was the crowning achievement in an unlikely success story, unseen in the annals of professional sports. In *Imperfect*, the one-time big league ace retraces his remarkable journey. ã ã Born without a right hand, Jim Abbott as a boy dreamed of being a great athlete. Raised in Flint, Michigan, by parents who saw in his condition not a disability but an extraordinary opportunity, Jim became a two-sport standout in high school, then an ace pitcher for the University of Michigan. ã ã But his journey was only beginning. ã ã As a nineteen-year-old, Jim beat the vaunted Cuban National Team. By twenty-one, heãçâ ãâ•d won the gold medal game at the 1988 Olympics andãçâ ãâ•without spending a day in the minor leaguesãçâ ãâ•cracked the starting rotation of the California Angels. In 1991, he would finish third in the voting for the Cy Young Award. Two years later, he would don Yankee pinstripes and deliver a one-of-a-kind no-hitter. ã ã It wouldnãçâ ãâ•t always be so good. After a season full of difficult lossesãçâ ãâ•some of them by football scoresãçâ ãâ•Jim was released, cut off from the game he loved. Unable to say good-bye so soon, Jim tried to come back, pushing himself to the limitãçâ ãâ•and through one of the loneliest experiences an athlete can have. ã ã But always, even then, there were children and their parents waiting for him outside the clubhouse doors, many of them with disabilities like his, seeking consolation and advice. These obligations became Jimãçâ ãâ•s greatest honor. ã ã In this honest and insightful memoir, Jim Abbott reveals the insecurities of a life spent as the different one, how he habitually hid his disability in his right front pocket, and why he chose an occupation in which the uniform provided no front pockets. With a riveting pitch-by-pitch account of his no-hitter providing the ideal frame for his story, this unique athlete offers readers an extraordinary and unforgettable memoir.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Exclusive: Essay by Jim Abbott He wouldn't say it exactly, because precision with words wasn't his specialty, but my father was the first to ask me, "So, what are you going to do about it?" The question itself --framed as a challenge--came years later from a sports psychologist, long after I'd become an adult and as I was nearing fatherhood. My father had warmed me to the answer. I was born when my dad was 18, barely out of adolescence himself, not yet married to my mother, and coping with his own response to a savagely simple call to obligation. I was born without a right hand, which, in 1967, qualified me as "crippled," predecessor to "handicapped," then "disabled," then "challenged." So, what was he going to do about it? What were we going to do about it? Well, we fished. We rode a bike. We flew a kite. And, eventually, we played ball. In Flint, Michigan, that's what boys did, what fathers and sons did. They played ball. When I went out into the world and felt like I'd been spit out the other side, my father would turn me around, open the front door and send me back out. He'd lost his own father at a young age, and his childhood with him. He replaced both with a desire to see more, and experience more. When everyone went right, Dad, often enough, went left. It wasn't willfulness, but instinct. He raised me in the same manner, from a soul that told him I'd need to fall down in order to stand. If he caught me today, I'd need someone to catch me and help me up tomorrow, and that wouldn't work at all. He let me fail, with the faith it would teach me to succeed. I learned that it was as hard on him as it was on me, but not until my own children had fallen and risen themselves. Now one of my daughters will come to me, her eyes moist and swollen, and I'll think of my dad and what he said. In a quiet moment, I'll look at my little girl and I'll ask her: "Well, honey, what are we going to do about it?" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Advance praise for *Imperfect* --"Jim Abbott is the embodiment of perseverance. The obstacles that he was able to overcome to play the game at the highest level are remarkable and his story can teach all of us valuable lessons. Jim was a fierce competitor. He never viewed his disability as a disadvantage and, as a result, it wasn't. *Imperfect* is a terrific story and

the best part is that it's true. •Hall of Famer Cal Ripken, Jr. •As I read *Imperfect: An Improbable Life*, Jim Abbott's love for the game jumped off the pages. It was like Jim was right in front of me telling me his life's journey. I felt his pain, hurt, joy, exhilaration, disappointment and accomplishments throughout his life. Jim has always been and continues to be an inspiration for all of us. •Don Mattingly, former New York Yankee captain and current Los Angeles Dodgers manager •“The story of Jim Abbott •wonderfully crafted by Tim Brown •is everything you'd expect from a baseball life: funny, heartbreaking, and triumphant, though not necessarily in that order. Still, to label this fine book •“œan inspiration almost misses the larger point. *Imperfect* isn't about learning to cope with a disability. It's about becoming a man in America. •Mark Kriegel, author of *Pistol: The Life of Pete Maravich* and *Namath: A Biography* •“Jim Abbott was 20 •œ22 as a pitcher for the Yankees, and yet, as a man who played the game with one hand, an argument should be made that he belongs among the greatest players of all time. In *Imperfect: An Improbable Life*, Abbott and one of America's leading sports journalists, Tim Brown, tell the amazing story of a man's dignity and grace in overcoming a forbidding physical hurdle to pitch 10 big-league seasons and to throw a no-hitter. Abbott won every day he took the mound. This book is required inspirational reading for all fans of the human spirit. •Ian O'Connor, New York Times bestselling author of *The Captain: The Journey of Derek Jeter* and *Arnie & Jack* •“If you think you knew the inspirational story of Jim Abbott, think again. With Tim Brown, Abbott gives an unflinching account of his remarkable baseball life •the joys and the pains. With each chapter you know him better and root even harder for him. •Tom Verducci, senior writer for Sports Illustrated and New York Times bestselling co-author of *The Yankee Years* •“*Imperfect* is one of the finest baseball memoirs ever written, an honest, touching, and beautifully rendered story that will remind even the most jaded fans why they loved the game. It is far more than a book about baseball; it is a deeply felt story of triumph and failure, dreams and disappointments. Jim Abbott has hurled another gem. •Jonathan Eig, New York Times bestselling author of *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig* and *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season* From the Hardcover edition.

Gift for my father. He enjoyed it. Great story.

Great book my dad and try to teach me how play baseball like him because I had a birth defects

with left arm

Great book about an incredible journey of a ball player who used his disability not as an excuse but a reason to become great.

I like this book! I was not disappointed in this well written book about Jim Abbott's life and major league career in baseball despite missing his right hand. Jim Abbott is candid and mature in his reflection of his life and career. Jim's perspective on his handicap is honest and inspiring. His story touched my heart because I am also "imperfect".

This is a very inspirational book for not only those people who believe they are disabled, but also for those who strive to be the best athlete they can be. We are all disabled in one way or another, Jim Abbott shows that anyone can accomplish anything if they put in the effort and stick to it no matter what.

Read this because it was assigned to my daughter's class, and well, I will read just about anything. I like reading and knowing about amazing people that had to endure struggles and became heroes to others, especially one that seems to be a genuinely good person, like Jim Abbott.

One of the best baseball books i have ever read!

This was for my grandson for a school project. The price was right and we got the last used one.

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