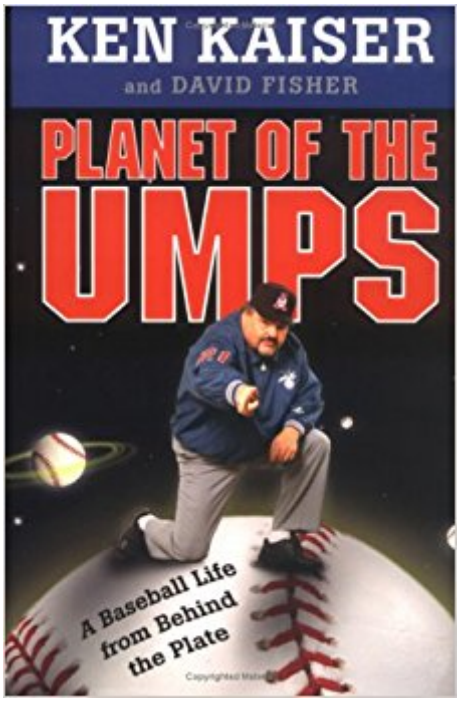
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Planet Of The Umps: A Baseball Life From Behind The Plate



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Two things nobody wants to grow up to be are an umpire and broke. Thanks to my career in baseball, I got both.Ã¢â ¬Â• After calling balls, strikes, and outs for thirty-six baseball seasons and more than three thousand major-league games, umpire Ken Kaiser finally called it a career. From the first day he hit a minor-league catcher with a pool table to the fateful day baseball called him out on a strike, Kaiser was one of the gameÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most popular and colorful characters. And in this autobiographyÃ¢â ¬â •written with the coauthor of Ron LucianoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s classic bestseller The Umpire Strikes BackÃ¢â ¬â •Kaiser brings to life his wild adventures from the pro-wrestling arena to the baseball diamond.This is the hysterically true story of four decades of baseball as lived and loved on the playing field, from Ted Williams and Billy Martin to Derek Jeter and Mark McGwire, from one-eyed umpires to space-age technology. As he did throughout his long and sometimes controversial career, the larger-than-his-chest-protector Kaiser calls Ã¢â ¬â„¢em as he saw Ã¢â ¬â„¢em.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This very funny memoir offers a hilarious look into life behind the plates by the man who was voted the most colorful umpire in the American League in a 1986 Sporting News poll. After 36 years as a professional umpire, with 23 seasons spent in the major leagues, Kaiser has seen just about everything there is to see in baseball, and he recounts it all-from his early hustling days in the minor leagues, surviving by trading stolen league baseballs for food and gas, to his final days risking (and losing) his six-figure income in the unsuccessful senior umpires' dispute with MLB in 1999, when he

was persuaded to resign as a negotiating tactic ("one of the worst decisions made in the whole history of labor negotiations"). But the book’s main strength is that Kaiser, writing with Fisher (coauthor of such books as A Lawyer’s Life, by Johnnie Cochran), presents in a lively and energetic style at least one great story (and sometimes more) per page, featuring such baseball legends as manager Billy Martin ("I was as unpredictable as he was") and third-baseman George Brett ("who liked to tell me dirty jokes while the pitcher was warming up"). Kaiser offers insights into umping that all baseball fans and potential umpires should memorize: "as an umpire you can’t have any favorites. You have to despise every player and manager equally." Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kaiser, a major-league baseball umpire for 23 years, paid his dues in the minor leagues where, he recalls, "everyone was angry." He tells the story of those angry early years and of his career in the big leagues in a manner that is typical of most sports memoirs: anecdotes are loosely organized around topics, but no matter how you slice it, they are still a series of mostly funny stories in which the butt of the joke rotates between umps, players, managers, and even the occasional fan. Among the highlights are accounts of the time Kaiser changed the rules on a baseball-playing Michael Jordan and what happened when his umping partner left his glass eye on a training table. But beyond the humor, Kaiser and coauthor Fisher manage to communicate the commitment to professionalism that umpires bring to the game. An enjoyable insider’s view of baseball. Wes LukowskyCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

Let me start off by saying that you probably have to be a big fan of baseball and umpiring specifically to enjoy this book. With that said, its a wonderful book with a lot of funny stories and great insight into the life of an MLB umpire. Like another reviewer said, there is a lot of the same stories being told that were told in Luciano;s book as well as Durwood Merrill;s book....but there were also a lot of stories I had never heard that were very interesting. The ending of the book is rather sad though as we are told about the screwing Kaiser took along with many other umpires. Kaiser was done wrong and I hope 9 years after he wrote this book some good things have happened in his life. To wrap this up, I wish baseball still had the colorful umpires like Kaiser, it made the game more fun. Now we have a bunch of egomaniacs running around the field just daring someone to say something to them. Best of luck KAIS

Ken does great job of sharing his life experience. Glad i got to know him through this book. I am one

who pays attention to umpires working my favorite game of baseball. I miss you on the field my friend. God Bless.

Was great to learn about umpiring for a career. Wonderful human humor. Laughed out loud many times

You go to a baseball game and wonder what the players and managers are talking about, this book gives you a great insite of what is happening!

PLANET OF THE UMPS IS BY KEN KAISER FORMER MINOR AND MAJOR LEAGUE, WHO TELLS US SOME FUNNY AND INTERSTING STORIES. THE PROBLEM IS THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH OF THEM. I DIDN'T REALLY CARE FOR HIS MINOR LEAGUE STORIES BECAUSE I COULD NOT IDENTIFY WITH MANY OF THE PLAYERS. THE MAJOR LEAGUE TALES WERE MOSTLY GOOD AND SOMETIMES FUNNY. MR. KAISER ALSO GIVES US HIS OPINION ON THE TREATMENT OF UMPIRES, WAYS TO SPEED UP THE GAME AND SOME OTHERS. I DID FIND HIS SIDE OF THE UMPIRE'S STRIKE INTERESTING EVEN THOUGH I HAVE READ IT BEFORE. ALL IN ALL THIS IS NOT A BAD BOOK. THERE IS MORE GOOD THAN BAD. IF YOU LIKE BASEBALL AND WANT TO READ AN OK FILLER BOOK THEN THIS IS FOR YOU.

Great reading about the side of baseball we don't often read about. However, the Kindle edition (at least) has horrendous SPELLING ERRORS ON EVERY SINGLE PAGE, hyphens in words that don't need hyphens, (also almost every page), etc. Punctuation is minimal at times. Several of the misspelled words I had to think about before I figured them out. If I were Kaiser or his coauthor Fisher I would be embarrassed to have my name on this book --- at least the Kindle edition. Massive proofreading needed.

I was so happy to find a copy of this. One doesn't get to read much about umpires, so this was very informative. I especially enjoyed reading about his time as a professional wrestler. I enjoyed the whole book. His writing style is direct, which I appreciated.

Fantastic funny yet poignant at the last

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