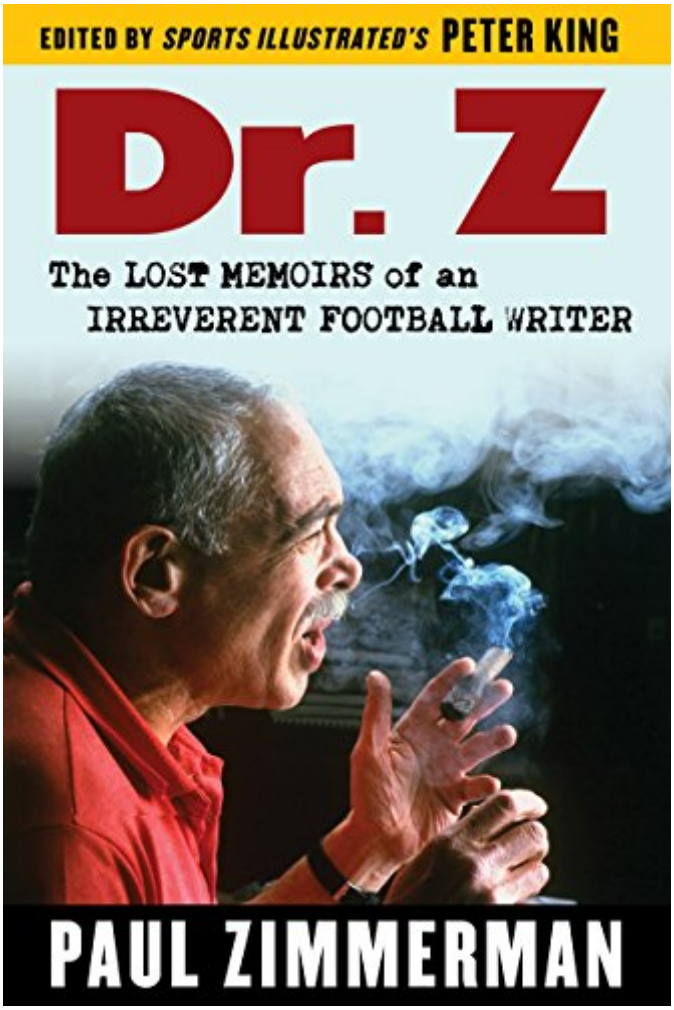
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Dr. Z: The Lost Memoirs Of An Irreverent Football Writer



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Synopsis

During his nearly 50 years of sportswriting, including 28 at Sports Illustrated, readers of Dr. Z came to expect a certain alchemical, trademark blend: words which were caustic and wry, at times self-deprecating or even puzzling, but always devilishly smart with arresting honesty. A complex package, that's the Doctor. The one-time sparring partner of Ernest Hemingway, Paul Zimmerman is one of the modern era's groundbreaking football minds, a man who methodically charted every play while generating copious notes, a human precursor to the data analytics websites of today. In 2008, Zimmerman had nearly completed work on his personal memoirs when a series of strokes left him largely unable to speak, read, or write. Compiled and edited by longtime SI colleague Peter King, these are the stories he still wants to see told. Dr. Z's memoir is a rich package of personalities, stories never shared about such characters as Vince Lombardi, Walter Payton, Lawrence Taylor, and Johnny Unitas. Even Joe Namath, with whom Zimmerman had a legendary and well-documented 23-year feud, saw fit to eventually unburden himself to the remarkable scribe. Also included are Zimmerman's encounters with luminaries and larger-than-life figures outside of sports, notably Donald Trump, Rupert Murdoch, and Hunter S. Thompson. But not to be missed are Zimmerman's quieter observations on his own life and writing, witticisms and anecdotes which sway between the poignant and hilarious. No matter the topic, Dr. Z: the Lost Memoirs of an Irreverent Football Writer proves essential, compelling reading for sports fans old and new.

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Z ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| Paul ZimmermanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| was (youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll understand the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“wasÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• shortlyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| as he is still with us) a sportswriter for almost fifty-yearsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| twenty-nine of those years with Sports Illustrated. His knowledge and writings as S.I.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s football guru is not only legendaryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| but after reading this memoirÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|Well ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| let me interrupt my own introductory sentences toÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| share some deeply sad information that makes the opening-introduction of my reviewÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| so painfulÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and uneven. Paul was working on this memoir when he was hit with three strokes in 2008. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Paul cannot read, write or speak. He has no alphabet so he canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t type out words on a computer as Steven Hawking does. Not only is Paul physically disabled and in a wheelchair, but his world is also closed off.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“He suffers from profound aphasia and apraxia. It is even difficult for him to point to his nose. He can clearly understand where his nose is located, but the signal from his brain to his hand to point to his nose becomes scrambled. The toughest part of all of this? The brilliance is still there. He is still as sharp as a whip. He gets the joke before the rest of us do. HE STILL SUFFERS NO FOOLS.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•To explain my review to followÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| being filled with enormous sadnessÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| joyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| appreciationÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| total sportsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| AND LIFEÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| entertainmentÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| to a sports and literary junkieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| also is drenched in personal agonyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| that unfortunately increases with each dose of written greatnessÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| throughout this book.The old sayingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF G-D GO IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| goes shooting through my blessed mind and soul continuallyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|. As I absorb the beauty of this book. Fourteen years agoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| I was diagnosed with a brain tumorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and almost died during the surgery. Before the surgeryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| I told my son and my surgeonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| that I would rather dieÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| being that IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve always been blessed with a

lightning quick mindÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| than be locked in a body and mutedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| I was blessed with full recovery. I get cold-hot-chillsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| as the greatness of Dr. ZÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s historical words and observations are emanating from these pages. (Edited by friend and colleague Peter King) Realizing the tortuous hell on earth poor Paul Zimmerman is going throughÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| as I had my own very real nightmares of possibly facing such a physical and mental sentence.With that understanding being shared with potential readersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| let me try to give you a brief summary of this book. It is an absolute dream of a read for any great sports fan. GREATÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| because Paul writesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and feelsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and explainsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| the mixed intricaciesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| of sportsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| integrated with lifeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| whether ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| from not just telling you who the greats of football were and areÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| but whyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and I mean ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“WHYÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•! When you get done reading the section on ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ALL-TIME TEAMSÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| you will never be able to accept any of the other myriad All-Pro type teams selected by othersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| mostly based on a popularity contest. After my fifty-five -plus-yearsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| of livingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| dyingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and playing sportsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| I now firmly do not believe that anyone has ever put in as muchÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| study and research and preparation when picking these type of teamsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| as the infamous Dr. Z.Aside from the ripped from the headlines sports storiesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| the reader will marvel and enjoyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| his stories of boxing with Ernest HemingwayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| arguing with owners and playersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| his idolizing early in his careerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| of sports writing greats like Jimmy CannonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and perhaps my favoriteÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| his rightful desecration of the airline industryÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| that I and every frequent-flyerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| who is tallÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and has a brainÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| and an ounce of logicÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| agrees with in spades. His stories covering the Olympics were master piecesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| especially the 1972 Munich Massacre OlympicsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| which I have always carried within my heart and mind from that fateful day September 5, 1972ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| for reasons above and beyondÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| that I wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t go into here.There are so many absolute classic quotes from writerÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s heavenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| that I would like to go on and on and share with youÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| but IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll just tease you a little with this one about the ALL-TIME-GREAT-TOUGHEST-QUARTERBACK-JOHN-UNITASÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|After Unitas was cut by the Steelers he played sandlot-semi-pro footballÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â|ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Five years later, after Unitas had led the Baltimore Colts to

two NFL Championships, Eagles quarterback Norm Van Brocklin was asked what made Unitas so great.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“He knows what itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s like to eat potato soup seven days a weekÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• the Dutchman replied. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Unitas became synonymous with toughness on the field for stepping up in the teeth of the rush and delivering the ball. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I often thought that sometimes heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d hold the ball one count longer than he had to,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Merlin Olsen once said, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“just so he could take the hit and laugh in your face.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I KEPT A PICTURE OF JOHNNY U OVER MY BED,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• NAMATH ONCE SAID. ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“TO ME HE MEANT ONE THING---TOUGHNESS.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•I hope the type of toughness that Dr. Z respected throughout his lifeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ helps him in this awful battle heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s locked in. I thankÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ as every sports fan shouldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ Peter KingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ for taking the time and the empathyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ to put this labor of love together for human beings like myself to so thoroughly enjoyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ between the unavoidable tears and agonyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ feeling for the literary giantÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ who felt and wrote these words.G-d bless!

This book is like having the opportunity to spend some extra time visiting after a chance encounter with a friend from long ago. Paul Zimmerman always produced a top product and this volume is a Great Read even though some of his work was incomplete and had to be edited by Peter King to be included in this Collection. Outstanding.

Thanks Linda for sharing and Peter for your time and devotion. Paul is one of a kind, a friend who challenges you more efficiently than an enemy. We pored over forbidden pre-draft data each year at the owners meetings, well before the NFL saw the lottery process as as a money-maker. We were hooked. We disagreed on draft picks and there was never such a thing as winning such a discussion.Paul’s opinions were as unchangeable as a proven fact, regardless the reality. We crossed swords at an all-day selection meeting and then bemoaned the picks and process over dinner that night. He picked the wine. Nothing will ever paint an exact picture of the constant contrarian that is Paul, but this book offers snap shots that help reminisce and remind that there is nobody else like him. Thanks again.

....the long awaited book is here, and should join his "THINKING MANS GUIDE" as the must haves

in every football library. All of us who know him attempt to describe his personality; yet it is what he writes, and how he tells his stories through this fascinating book. Though every chapter was enjoyable; as a historian who has worked with him and was guided and mentored by him....Mine eyes have seen the glory, Charts, Journalism, all-time teams, and especially Quarterbacks stand out. Paul Lionel Zimmerman charts games, explains what he sees, and captures the essence of the game. God Bless you Paul for your contribution to the literary world.

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