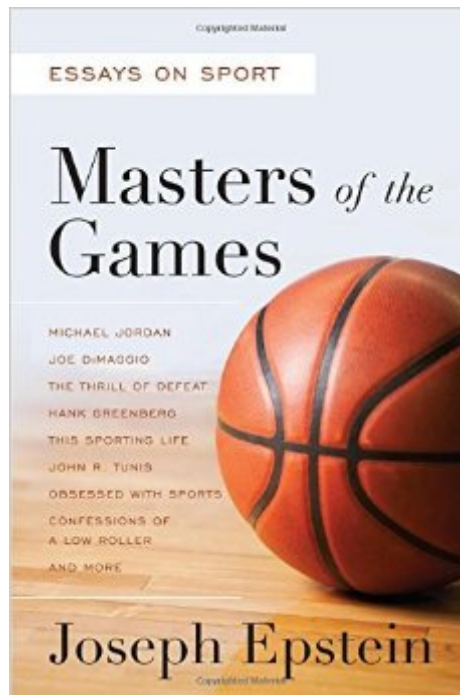


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Masters Of The Games: Essays And Stories On Sport



Synopsis

In this collection, his twenty-fifth book, Joseph Epstein departs from writing about literature and culture to indulge his fondness for the world of sport in all its forms. In these essays and stories on such subjects as saving Joe DiMaggio's reputation from the clutches of an iconoclastic biographer, marveling at the skills of Michael Jordan, shaking free of an addiction to radio sports talk shows, or contemplating the changing nature of the games he grew up with and played as a boy, Epstein turns writing about sports into an art at once penetrating and highly amusing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joseph Epstein is one of the foremost living practitioner of the art of essay writing in our English world today. His choice of subject is eclectic, ranging from the serious to the whimsical. So it is with some trepidation that I approach reading this book, because a serious essay writer coming down from Mount Olympus to regale us with his impressions and thoughts on the quite different realm of sports is somewhat surprising. I also did not want to lose my image of Joseph Epstein, erudite essayist and serious minded commentator. My fears were that he would not be able to translate his facility with the English language onto the subject of sports. or worse, I feared that his nimble mind was not able to grasp the simplicity and beauty of sports. I need not have worried. Not only is Mr. Epstein quite adept at the sports genre, he is quite impressively, an erudite and opinionated observer and fan of the sporting world. The book itself is a series of essays written throughout the years, mostly having to do with his beloved hometown of Chicago and their sports teams. If one knows anything about Chicago sports, one knows that the fortunes of those teams varies widely, the

average Chicago sports fan of course are on a vertiginous roller coaster ride of emotions. From the depth of despair that is the Cubs to the ascendancy of the Blackhawks and the Bulls. Mr. Epstein travels the same tracks as the average Chicago fan, but he expresses his opinions and observes the foibles of sports with such clarity and expressiveness that it seems to this reader that I am re-examining the events with fresh eyes, even though we are treading old grounds. The chapters helpfully delineates the general flow the topics: Essays, Jocks, Stories, Short Takes, Opinions, and Summing up.

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