



Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Antihero

Jeff Pearlman

Download now

Read Online →

Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Antihero

Jeff Pearlman

Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Antihero Jeff Pearlman

No player in the history of baseball has left such an indelible mark on the game as San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds. In his twenty-year career, Bonds has amassed an unprecedented seven MVP awards, eight Gold Gloves, and more than seven hundred home runs, an impressive assortment of feats that has earned him consideration as one of the greatest players the game has ever seen. Equally deserved, however, is his reputation as an insufferable braggart, whose mythical home runs are rivaled only by his legendary ego. From his staggering ability and fabled pedigree (father Bobby played outfield for the Giants; cousin Reggie Jackson and godfather Willie Mays are both Hall of Famers) to his well-documented run-ins with teammates and the persistent allegations of steroid use, Bonds inspires a like amount of passion from both sides of the fence. For many, Bonds belongs beside Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron in baseball's holy trinity; for others, he embodies all that is wrong with the modern athlete: aloof; arrogant; alienated.

In *Love Me, Hate Me*, author Jeff Pearlman offers a searing and insightful look into one of the most divisive athletes of our time. Drawing on more than five hundred interviews -- with former and current teammates, opponents, managers, trainers, friends, and outspoken critics and unapologetic supporters alike -- Pearlman reveals, for the first time, a wonderfully nuanced portrait of a prodigiously talented and immensely flawed American icon whose controversial run at baseball immortality forever changed the way we look at our sports heroes.

Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Antihero Details

Date : Published February 20th 2007 by It Books (first published 2006)

ISBN : 9780060797539

Author : Jeff Pearlman

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Sports and Games, Sports, Baseball, Nonfiction, Biography, History

 [Download Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Anti ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an An ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Antihero Jeff Pearlman

From Reader Review Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the Making of an Antihero for online ebook

Michael Perkins says

I'm a lifelong SF Giants fan, but never bought into the denials about performance-enhancing drugs. (Same with Lance Armstrong). I think the commissioner of baseball knew, as did the owners of the Giants. But baseball had been going through another fan lull and the league needed the home run to generate excitement and the Giants owners to fill their new ballpark. However, I always laughed at the hypocritical outrage these officials would express if someone got caught.

As for Bonds, he was a toxic combination of a highly gifted, but highly insecure athlete, who was very socially inept. Unfortunately, he got the wrong guidance and advice from Willie Mays, who Bonds called his godfather, and Bonds' own father, Bobby, who once played for the Giants. Both had experienced racism, particularly Mays, that made them bitter and defensive. They advised Barry to be the same.

The reporter has more than made his case. The examples pile up ad nauseam. Although he is honest about how black players were treated worse and often paid less than white players until the free agent market broke open.

This book has been around my house since my son read it when it first came out. I was prompted to pick it up because the Giants recently did a Barry Bonds Day, retiring his number. Ownership is pumping up the nostalgia for a team that won three titles, but is clearly declining with its aging and oft-injured veterans. Some of the bandwagon fans have never been through a down cycle, so we'll see how many show up at the ballpark a couple of years from now.

Meanwhile, about halfway through, I realized that the author is just a jealous prick. He's written other hits on other black athletes he envies. My guess is he wanted to be an athlete, but wasn't good enough, so settled for sports journalist. Not very glamorous and certainly not a ticket to the big bucks of the superstars. Meanwhile, who of us could sustain someone going over every moment of our lives, since Kindergarten, with a fine-tooth comb?

Carol Storm says

Barry Bonds certainly comes across as the ultimate fink in this carefully researched sports bio. However, author Jeff Pearlman has no new insights and fails to make a compelling case for whatever point he's trying to make. JUICED by Jose Canseco is a much more exciting book and reveals much, much more of the author's twisted mind!

Ice says

Pearlman, former staff writer with Sports Illustrated and Newsday, delivers a fully realized, if hardly appealing, portrait of baseball slugger Barry Bonds, who has perplexed teammates, fans, and the press for

years with sometimes-indifferent play, an almost-joyful cruelty toward seemingly everyone (except kids), and a near-total disregard for the rules of the game, if allegations of his use of performance-enhancing drugs are true.

At the same time, Pearlman's Barry Bonds is a man of astonishing talent and, on occasion, humanity. Bonds' career is fully traced here--from his pampered boyhood as the son of another gifted but troubled player (Bobby Bonds) through his successes at Arizona State, through his years as a superstar with the Pittsburgh Pirates and San Francisco Giants, including his pursuit of Hank Aaron's home-run record. Drug-use allegations aside, it's hard not to boo Barry Bonds for the teammate and man he appears to be, so damning is Pearlman's profile. Yet the reader is always reminded of Bonds' supreme talent.

A highly readable companion to Fainaru-Wada and Williams' recent *Game of Shadows*, which relates in greater detail Bonds' alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

No player in the history of baseball has left such an indelible mark on the game as San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds. In his twenty-year career, Bonds has amassed an unprecedented seven MVP awards, eight Gold Gloves, and more than seven hundred home runs, an impressive assortment of feats that has earned him consideration as one of the greatest players the game has ever seen.

Equally deserved, however, is his reputation as an insufferable braggart, whose mythical home runs are rivaled only by his legendary ego. From his staggering ability and fabled pedigree (father Bobby played outfield for the Giants; cousin Reggie Jackson and godfather Willie Mays are both Hall of Famers) to his well-documented run-ins with teammates and the persistent allegations of steroid use, Bonds inspires a like amount of passion from both sides of the fence. For many, Bonds belongs beside Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron in baseball's holy trinity; for others, he embodies all that is wrong with the modern athlete: aloof; arrogant; alienated.

In *Love Me, Hate Me*, author Jeff Pearlman offers a searing and insightful look into one of the most divisive athletes of our time. Drawing on more than five hundred interviews -- with former and current teammates, opponents, managers, trainers, friends, and outspoken critics and unapologetic supporters alike -- Pearlman reveals, for the first time, a wonderfully nuanced portrait of a prodigiously talented and immensely flawed American icon whose controversial run at baseball immortality forever changed the way we look at our sports heroes.

Tommy says

Wow, in case you couldn't tell from his behavior in press conferences, interviews, and candid moments on the diamond, Barry Bonds has a chip on his shoulder the size of the Golden Gate Bridge.

This book just confirms it - you might go in looking for the misunderstood athlete who secretly wants to be loved, who visits sick kids in the off-season.

That guy's not here. Where have all the baseball heroes gone? Pete Rose, Bonds, McGwire, Clemens - all sport asterisks next to their names in my book now.

Where's Cal Ripken when we need him?

Max Anadon says

Well I'm one of the multitude of Barry bashers. It's clear he used PEDs...the only thing missing is his acknowledgement that he did so knowingly. It's a sad story, and it's impossible for me to understand the world of a superstar like Barry and what life is like in an egocentric world like his. If I did not vote for him for the HOF, it would be out of spite... Incredible athlete without PEDs, but from this story, he seems to lack quite a bit in the compassion, understanding, and humane departments. What did I learn? Nothing. At the time, I enjoyed reading about the fall of someone else, especially someone who seems to be not nice...I wish I could say I read it to learn an example of what I don't want for myself or my family, but it was for shallow, petty amusement. Hopefully I won't do this again. Now I would say there are so many books worth more of your time.

Adil says

"Love Me, Hate Me: Barry Bonds and the making of an Antihero" is an excellent book written by Jeff Pearlman about the biggest figure in baseball history and probably biggest cheater of the 20th century. Instead of just bashing Bonds for lying about using steroids and performance drugs, he interviews both sides: the critics and Bond's family. Pearlman does a good job of recapitulating what Bonds did in his 20 year and how tremendous it was. He passed both Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron in home runs with over 756 big flies! It's interesting to see Bond's true character through indirect characterization. His family is obviously on his side saying how he's a good father and legitimate baseball legend. On the other side critics like me are saying how Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron hit their home runs fairly without the help of some magic pills. C'mon Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron are baseball's best homerun hitters and yet they're being overshadowed by a guy whose home runs are tainted. Despite all criticism, I have to give Bonds some props for fighting out there and staying so perseverant. I wouldn't be able to last that long in the baseball diamond with all that criticism and pressure. Pitchers were trying to take him out as he approached Ruth's record. He was lucky to make it out of the league injury free.

Through the media we see Bond as a despicable selfish cheater who had nothing better to do than tarnish the game of baseball and step over true legends. In this book this is not the case because we see how his fan base changed from when he was in the world series against the Angels to when the news first broke out about the BALCO steroid scandal. Fans used to be on his side cheering for him, but now they're also criticizing him and calling him a cheater. Pearlman does a good job of portraying Bonds as a falling star with no safety net and a low chance of getting in the hall of fame.

This is a great book regardless of your opinion of bonds because it's so unbiased and sheds a new light on the Bonds saga. The title fits the book perfectly because it's your choice of how to judge Bonds' character. Is he a self-centered selfish athlete or a falling star caught up in wrongful criticism. The only people I recommend this book to is to people with previous knowledge of Bonds.

Luke Koran says

"Love me, hate me - I don't give a f***" - Barry Bonds.

Though I grew up in the 1990s and have only vague memories of the professional world of sports like football and baseball, I do remember one man: Barry Bonds. I remember having a 2000 baseball card of his,

which showcased this giant of a man with these superhuman home run numbers. I remember occasionally seeing one of his home runs on the news (like when he bear hugged my beloved Twins hero Torii Hunter after Bonds was robbed of a home run during the 2002 All Star Game). I also remember the relentless media coverage of Bonds during the BALCO steroid scandal. And, yes, I remember when both Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron's home run records fell to this man. I remember quite a bit about the man named Bonds.

Years later, when I read this book in search for the complete, hopefully unbiased, story of this new Home Run King, I was struck by this biography's title, and the featured quote found before the introduction. Bonds was in his own little world, both in respect to his baseball prowess and his relationship with the media and society in general. This quote of "love me, hate me" truly epitomizes who Bonds really was, and isn't part of some legacy-smearing agenda that this respected sportswriter, Jeff Pearlman, administered in this well-received book. No, this is an incredibly thorough and detailed look into the complete life and tale of a man who was destined to be the most complete all-around baseball player of his generation, if not of all time. As much as I loved Pearlman's other work about Roger Clemens, I enjoyed this one more because I had more memories of seeing Bonds during his career, and amid his lengthy involvement in the steroid scandal, I was much more in-tuned with this legendary hitter than that superb pitcher nicknamed "Rocket." However, this biography still astounded me at every turn, especially with the incredible insight into Bonds' interaction with his teammates and the media in the clubhouse. Here is the definitive story of Bonds - the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Amanda says

Barry Bonds is an enigma - self-absorbed, highly sensitive, ridiculously talented. I wonder what he really thinks when he goes to bed at night - is he a victim of fame and circumstance? Is he as clueless of his own responsibility as he seems? How does he reconcile his legitimate, true talent with the steroid-driven quest for the home run record? Good story, but makes me wonder if we will ever see the real end of it.

Mike says

A well-written, hanging-by-his-own-rope bio of an undeniably talented and completely polarizing athlete; one of the greatest of his era. Pearlman has done his research, going all the way back to Bonds' cub scouts den mother to find people willing to shit on Barry for being a jerk. The question that lingers in my mind, having read this book, is where is the one about Mark McGwire along these lines? Would Cobb, or Ruth, or DiMaggio, or Williams, have survived the media scrutiny Barry Bonds has endured? The element of race lurks behind the curtains of this book, and while it is referenced in passing, race is left largely unremarked upon to the extent that this reader thinks it may be germane to the discussion.

Barry Bonds used HGH to push a Hall of Fame career to the further reaches of the stratosphere. His legacy leaves a conundrum for MLB and the Hall of Fame to puzzle through. Love Me, Hate me is a fascinating and very sad book to read.

Benn says

Bonds doesn't come across well in this book, he seems to be despised by teammates and the media, and as

for the Hall of Fame debate, I expect that to rage on for a long time. No doubt the guy was a talented ballplayer whether he was clean or not, I guess only one person knows the truth and he ain't talking.

Kay says

Barry Bonds has a split personality and the author mixed the media view with friends and teammates view. In doing so he managed to show the good side and the bad side of him. I find it a shame that he used HGH & steroids to enhance his remarkable talent. Without these drugs, he still would be a top player and now he has ruined his standing.

Branden says

A very interesting and intriguing look at baseball's Public Enemy #1. The facts and sources that go into this book are great, the author really took his time to make sure everything was accurate. It really paints a picture of what kind of guy Barry Bonds is and where the source of his "attitude" comes from. The author takes an un-biased view on the man and tries to point out the positive moments but by the end you learn that those positive moments are not very genuine and Barry Bonds really is a steroid using jerk.

Mike Fendrich says

Very interesting but VERY sad book. One wonders how Mr. Bonds lives with himself. An incredible talent (my guess - top 5 all time) but what does a man profit if he gains the whole world but loses his soul.

Andrea W says

Barry Bonds is a fascinating narcissist. And great baseball player! This is one of the best, well researched biographies on an athlete I've read.

Shakeia says

I'm becoming a fan of Pearlman's writing. This book seems to paint a more nuanced picture of Bonds than any I've ever read. Excellent read for baseball fans, whether you like Bonds or not.
