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Every little kid who's ever taken the mound in Little League dreams of someday getting the ball for Game Seven of the World Series. Ron Darling got to live that dream - only it didn't go exactly as planned. In *Game 7, 1986*, the award-winning baseball analyst looks back at what might have been a signature moment in his career, and reflects on the ways professional athletes must sometimes shoulder a personal disappointment as his team finds a way to win. Published to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the 1986 New York Mets championship season, Darling's book will break down one of baseball's great "forgotten" games - a game that stands as a thrilling, telling and tantalizing exclamation point to one of the best-remember seasons in Major League Baseball history. Working once again with *New York Times* best-selling collaborator Daniel Paisner, who teamed with the former All-Star pitcher on his acclaimed 2009 memoir *Game 7, 1986*, Darling offers a book for the thinking baseball fan, a chance to reflect on what it means to compete at the game's highest level, with everything on the line.

## **Game 7, 1986: Failure and Triumph in the Biggest Game of My Life Details**

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# From Reader Review Game 7, 1986: Failure and Triumph in the Biggest Game of My Life for online ebook

## Katy says

Darling gives a good account of what can go through a pitcher's mind when he's about to start the biggest game of his career. He also doesn't flinch away from the fact that this was a terrible outing for him, so you get an honest look into the moment, right down to pitch-by-pitch. A great insight.

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## Chris Brocks says

This book was nothing short of phenomenal as Ron Darling shares his story on what he thinks should be the high point of his baseball career. Little do baseball fans know is that this day is on that Darling doesn't dream fondly of, even though he became a World Series Champion. Ron was unbelievable as he gave a pitch by pitch detail of every batter he faced and how some of the Red Sox he faced were his childhood hero's, being from Massachusetts. Darling reveals he has mixed feelings of Game 7 in the 1986 World Series as he is disappointed in himself as he pitched 3.2 innings and allowing 3 runs. On the other hand he is of course gracious as his team picked him up by coming back and picking up the 2nd World Series championship in the Mets history. This great story shows how athletes may not find joy in winning if they felt they couldn't do their best. I recommend this book to not only Mets fans but any baseball fan to get a different prospective on the game.

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## Christine says

This book is about more than just baseball. I never played it, personally, and certainly have never experienced such a do-or-die situation as being the starting pitcher in Game 7 of the World Series, yet I understood every emotion Ron discussed. It truly isn't every day that you read a memoir entirely focused on what the author believes was basically the biggest failure of his entire career. I valued it for that unique perspective.

The 1986 Mets team has reached mythical epic proportions in the minds of most fans (confession: my father has been telling me stories about the Wonders of the 1986 Team since I was old enough to listen- I was two when they won, and am always reminded of how I was asleep at the time of victory) so to have Ron write a book taking us through Game 7's craziness- from rain delays to fans on the field- and explain how even thirty years later he still is coming to terms with that fact that though the team ultimately won the World Series, it was *despite* his performance, not *because* of it, means a lot.

It is so easy to identify with psyching yourself out in a big moment, feeling the pressure, and coping with less-than-stellar results no matter what field you are in. I loved Ron before reading this, because like most

Mets fans I listen to him do a tremendous job calling the current games with Gary and Keith, but I love him more now for sharing this. It is easy to talk about the glories and bask in the triumphs, but to open up about how you felt you failed your team? That was compelling, and it was palpable how much he cared. So, thank you Mr. Darling, for telling this story.

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### **Robert Greenberger says**

I find Ron Darling an excellent analyst and commentator on SNY's Mets broadcasts. As a result, I somewhat surprised at how slight this book felt. Considering he lasted less than 4 innings in Game 7 of the 1986 World Series, he really limited his scope, which is a shame. Had he and coauthor Dan Paisner (an old pal) widened it to encompass Darling's whole 1986 season, taking us from Opening Day through the playoffs and World Series, we might have gained a greater understanding of the mess his head was in when he took the mound.

Ever the gentleman, Darling sometimes skirts the controversial issues that clouded the team's ascendance that year nor does he delve deeply into his relationships with manager Davey Johnson and pitching coach Mel Stottlemyer.

What's here is good and entertaining, but it felt too insubstantial to make me a happy reader.

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### **Joe DiLeo says**

#### **Great Analysis From a Great Analyst**

Ron Darling currently has a reputation as being one of the most thought-provoking and insightful color commentators in baseball and he shows why here. Terrific insight into what was going on inside the head and around the world of a professional athlete before the biggest moment of his career mixed with the benefit of hindsight make Darling's latest literary effort a must-read for Mets fans, obviously, but all baseball fans looking to be dropped into the circus-like atmosphere of a championship game off the field as well as dealing with struggling during that moment as it happens. Great book.

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### **Jason Oliver says**

I would like to give this a 3.5 I haven't seen many sports books on here so I don't know if anyone will be interested but I love baseball.

Spoiler alert: Mets won the World Series in 1986. oops did I ruin it?

Ron Darling was the starting pitcher of game 7 (final game) of the '86 World Series against the Boston Red Sox. This is the year of the ball between Buckner's legs in game 6 to allow the Mets to win and force a game 7.

This book is unique as far as sports books go. This is not about Darling's triumphs and greatness. This is about the biggest failure of his career along side the greatest triumph. He blew game 7. Horrible pitching and

put his team down 3-0 early in the game, but his team came back and won. This is his struggles with failing and succeeding all at the same time and trying to figure out if he earned the success since he failed on the biggest stage. Very interesting but the writing is as most sports books are: subpar. But I loved the story, especially from many years later as a sportscaster looking back. I also appreciate he does not go into much detail about the drugs and negative aspects of the 86 Mets. He touche on it, but stays focused on this one game. It was a good read.

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### **Kevin McAllister says**

Every spring with the advent a new baseball season I like to read a baseball themed book. Since Ron Darling will be signing copies of his newest book Game 7, 1986 at my job next week, this was the logical choice. Yogi Berra is credited with saying "90% of the game is half mental." Darling's book is an excellent example of just how mental the game of baseball truly is. He gives us a detailed account of how he psyched himself out in game 7 of the 1986 World Series and how he feels his career and therefore his entire life would have probably ended up differently had he pitched better in that game. Like Darling says, most athletes write about their success not their failures, so he gets major props from me for writing a book like this. I also admire the way he discussed Strawberry & Gooden. Both are now back in good graces with The Mets organization and most of the fans. But Darling clearly states "I resent how they squandered their gifts- but hey, they were their gifts to squander, not mine; their choices to make, not mine. At the time, I suppose I resented it a little more in Darryl, because Doc had that sweetness about him. Doc was like a lost kid. Darryl, at times, didn't seem to give a shit." Thanks R.J. that needed to be said. I too, still resent how they squandered their gifts and am not OK with accolades they continue to receive. To end on a lighter note, I enjoyed reading the accolades Darling bestowed upon Hernandez and Carter! And the description of the post game celebration with Darling hanging out with DeNiro and Mike Tyson; who got into a prolonged conversation with Darling's mom ! That's the kind of insider stuff that us fans just eat up !

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### **Maryann says**

A birthday gift from my son who listened to my stories of the 86 season from the time he was in utero but became a Yankees fan anyway. It spoke to me on so many levels not the least of which was because I happened to be in the upper deck of Shea stadium on that magical evening. The retelling of Darling's journey has the advantage of a 30 year perspective bookended by his blue collar upbringing and Yale education and his later star turn as a thinking fan's baseball analyst. It is a much more compelling read than if he had written it the following year as was so often the case in those days. Wise, witty, self deprecating and insightful. A love letter to the 86 season I was so fortunate to help commemorate from much better seats at citifield in May.

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### **Steve A says**

OK Ron – the Mets won, you are off the hook!! As I started the book, a replay of Game 7 came on SNY, so I took a timeout to re-watch the game – this helped give more context into Ron's story. As a funny aside, I missed seeing Game 6, as my wife and I were heading to a wedding anniversary trip to Hawaii! We landed in Honolulu, but we were waited there to take off for our final destination of Maui. The Pilot then put on the Mets broadcast and we were greeted with the famous ball-thru-Buckner's legs play. At that point we knew

that Hawaii Day 2 would be a morning in front of the TV watching Game 7.

More about the book: I actually enjoyed the detail Ron provided. I forgotten most of the game (we won) and Ron's performance (see, we Mets fans can forgive and forget). It was interesting to get inside a Major League ballplayer's head, especially as they go onto the biggest stage of their profession.

I had the pleasure of being at a book signing – almost exactly 2 years ago – where Ron signed this copy. It was during the middle of a Mets game – they won, of that great 2015 season, disappointing World Series loss, but sharing the thrill of being at the WS with my son was personally satisfying).

I hope writing this book provides some relief for Ron as it sounds like he carried this memory for way too long. Living on Long Island I get to enjoy Gary, Keith and Ron on a very regular basis (except when ESPN and Facebook get in the way) and the book takes on two views – RJ, the All-Star pitcher, and Ron Darling the award winning baseball analyst – how could that be bad?

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### **Jason says**

This is not a book I'd recommend to someone who isn't a sports fan. Ron Darling was one of my favorite players on the '86 and '88 Mets and in this book, I thought he did a pretty admirable job of putting us back on the field for the (underrated) game 7 of the 1986 World Series.

While I appreciated Darling going to great lengths to write a book about a bad performance, I'm not sure by the end of reading the book that he learned anything from that day's "failure."

It's a tough balance to remain humble, blame yourself, blame the other players and make excuses for why the game didn't go the right way. Despite some flaws, I really enjoyed the re-telling of the game that people forget happened... there's no Bill Buckner error here.

For it's brevity and its attention to (baseball) detail. I'd recommend this one to a Mets fan for sure.

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### **John O'reilly says**

Interesting reflections on a critical game in Mets history. Darling is a good storyteller. Best for Mets fans but full of good baseball insight.

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### **Jen Mcgovern says**

How could you not like a book about the Mets? Light reading for a tough work week. A bit too detailed on the pitch by pitch account of game 6 (and I would have enjoyed a box score printed in this book!) but gave me good perspective on the mind of an athlete during a big game

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## **Karen Gennarelli says**

Loved this book. I am a big Ron Darling fan and I was at Game 7 - so why wouldn't I love it. I would only recommend this book to baseball fans - especially Mets fans. Well written, easy read and so honest.

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## **Andrea Stegman says**

Great pitch-by-pitch analysis of Game 7 of the 1986 World Series. Darling is ultra critical of himself and shares wonderful detail of everything he experienced before, during, and after that game, as well as providing insight into the team dynamics. Great for Mets fans, of course, but most baseball aficionados would likely appreciate this book as well.

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## **Richard says**

In 1986 I was 23 and totally absorbed in the Mets and their legendary championship season. I remember Ron Darling as a player and in the past decade have also become familiar with him as a voice in the Mets broadcast booth. So of course his recollections from that amazing October are going to be of interest to me. The trip down Memory Lane and the inside tidbits are why I enjoyed the book and are why I'm giving it four stars.

But the basic premise is a bit strange. In Game 7 of the World Series, Darling gave up 3 runs before being removed in the 4th inning. This failure to come up big in a big game has haunted him for 30 years and he says he wrote this book as a therapeutic way to deal with these feelings.

If that's the case, he wrote the wrong book.

Darling mentions, briefly, the commonly stated disappointment that this great group of Mets players only won one World Championship. If he wants to be haunted by any one game he should have chosen Game 7 of the 1988 NLCS at Dodger Stadium. He gave up 6 runs in the first inning, quickly derailing the Mets chance of getting back to the World Series. But Darling doesn't mention this game at all. He's haunted by a poor performance in a big game that the Mets won, but not by a much worse performance in a big game that they lost? It can be argued that he's a big part of the reason that his team never got that second title.

I don't know if Darling is planning a sequel to this book, *Game 7, 1988*, but if he is, he should write it for therapy and not for publication, because very few people would want to read it.

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