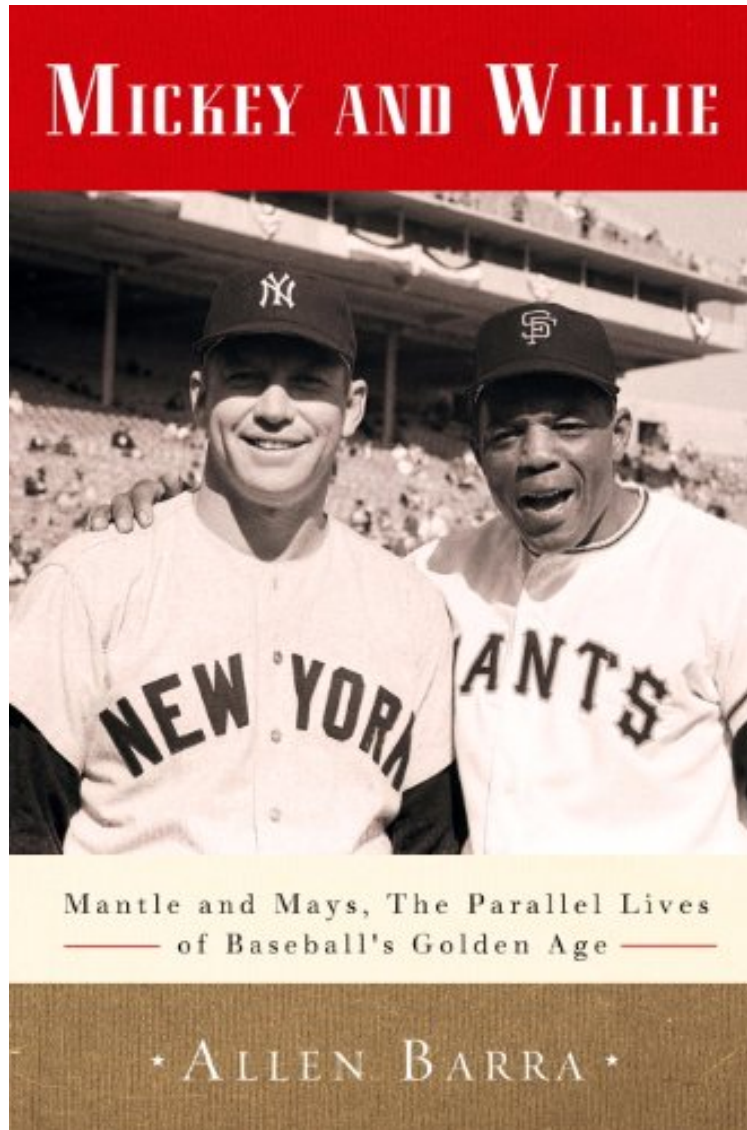


[Get free] Mickey and Willie: Mantle and Mays, the Parallel Lives of Baseball's Golden Age

Mickey and Willie: Mantle and Mays, the Parallel Lives of Baseball's Golden Age

Von Allen Barra

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2013-05-14 Erscheinungsdatum: 2013-05-14 File Name: B007MDDSUM | File size: 57.Mb

Von Allen Barra : Mickey and Willie: Mantle and Mays, the Parallel Lives of Baseball's Golden Age before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mickey and Willie: Mantle and Mays, the Parallel Lives of Baseball's Golden Age:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Baseball Heroes Von James Gallen Mickey and Willie is a dual biography of two contemporaries who defined baseball

excellence during their careers. Their lives had remarkable similarities, friendships, rivalries and personal failures. One thing they had in common was a father who pushed them into baseball. Mickey was the son of a miner from Commerce, Oklahoma and actually rode a horse to school. Willie was the son of a steel worker in a black section of Birmingham, Alabama. Willie played for the Birmingham Black Barons in the Negro leagues while Mickey spent a short time in the minors before making the Big Leagues in New York: a Yankee and a Giant. Both were power-hitting, fast centerfielders who were the class of their leagues for years. Mickey starred in the World Series and Willie in the All-Star Games. Author Allen Barra delves deeply into statistical comparison trying to determine who the better player was and how many more MVP awards each, particularly Willie, deserved. Mickey was plagued by injuries while Willie remained healthier but claimed to be plagued by his ballparks, the cavernous Polo Grounds and the windswept Candlestick Park. Mickey was the favorite of New York writers while Willie had a long wait for appreciation in San Francisco. Fading is a part of life that each endured, Mickey in Yankee pinstripes while Willie ended up back in New York with the Mets. Willie would always resent that Mickey's collectibles were more valuable and sought after than his. Their personal lives make for contrasts with Willie seeming to come out on top. Mickey is depicted as an alcoholic and a skirt chaser. Willie was a teetotaler and loyal to his wives although neither were successful as fathers. Barra treats Willie harshly for his absence from the Civil Rights Movement. I had known that both were great players, but now have a better understanding of their baseball qualities and personal failings. I think that this book spends too much time trying to quantify their career accomplishments. I came out of this book with a greater appreciation of Willie and less of Mickey and a greater familiarity with the baseball world of their era. I had enjoyed Barra's earlier book *Yogi Berra: Eternal Yankee* (see my review). Mickey and Willie is a worthy addition to baseball's story.

Kurzbeschreibung Acclaimed sportswriter Allen Barra exposes the uncanny parallels--and lifelong friendship--between two of the greatest baseball players ever to take the field. Culturally, Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays were light-years apart. Yet they were nearly the same age and almost the same size, and they came to New York at the same time. They possessed virtually the same talents and played the same position. They were both products of generations of baseball-playing families, for whom the game was the only escape from a lifetime of brutal manual labor. Both were nearly crushed by the weight of the outsized expectations placed on them, first by their families and later by America. Both lived secret lives far different from those their fans knew. What their fans also didn't know was that the two men shared a close personal friendship--and that each was the only man who could truly understand the other's experience.

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ber den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende ALLEN BARRA is the author of *Inventing Wyatt Earp*, *The Last Coach*, and *Yogi Berra*, as well as several essay collections. He is a regular contributor to such publications as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Daily Beast*, and *Salon*.