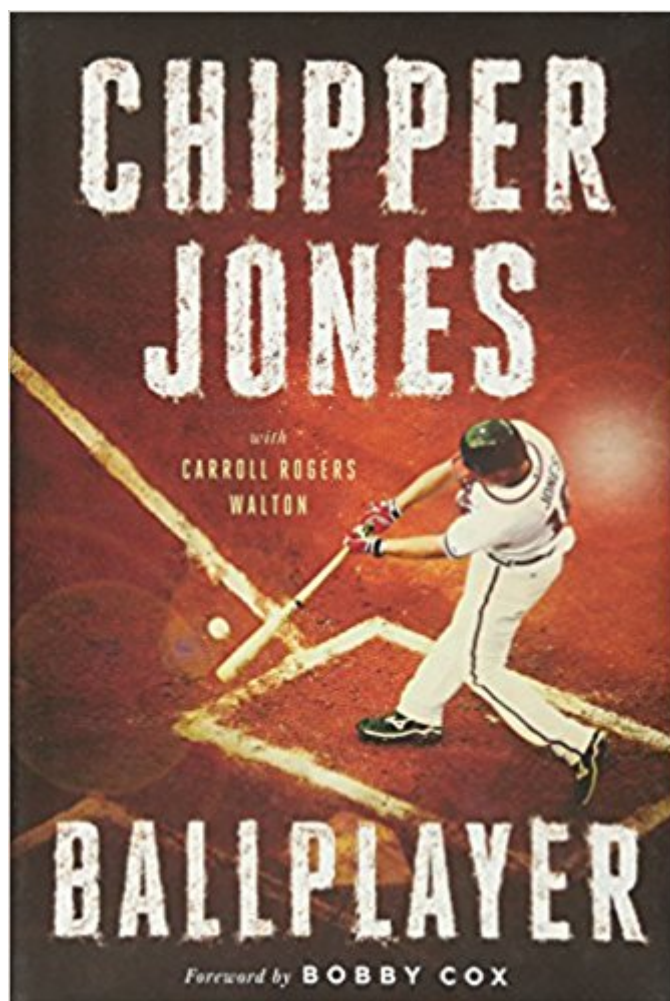


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# Ballplayer



## Synopsis

Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones — one of the greatest switch-hitters in baseball history — shares his remarkable story, while capturing the magic nostalgia that sets baseball apart from every other sport. Before Chipper Jones became an eight-time All-Star who amassed Hall of Fame-worthy statistics during a nineteen-year career with the Atlanta Braves, he was just a country kid from small town Pierson, Florida. A kid who grew up playing baseball in the backyard with his dad dreaming that one day he'd be a major league ballplayer. With his trademark candor and astonishing recall, Chipper Jones tells the story of his rise to the MLB ranks and what it took to stay with one organization his entire career in an era of booming free agency. His journey begins with learning the art of switch-hitting and takes off after the Braves make him the number one overall pick in the 1990 draft, setting him on course to become the linchpin of their lineup at the height of their fourteen-straight division-title run. Ballplayer takes readers into the clubhouse of the Braves' extraordinary dynasty, from the climax of the World Series championship in 1995 to the last-gasp division win by the 2005 "Baby Braves"; all the while sharing pitch-by-pitch dissections of clashes at the plate with some of the all-time great starters, such as Clemens and Johnson, as well as closers such as Wagner and Papelbon. He delves into his relationships with Bobby Cox and his famous Braves brothers — Maddux, Glavine, and Smoltz, among them — and opponents from Cal Ripken Jr. to Barry Bonds. The National League MVP also opens up about his overnight rise to superstardom and the personal pitfalls that came with fame; his spirited rivalry with the New York Mets; his reflections on baseball in the modern era — outrageous money, steroids, and all — and his special last season in 2012. Ballplayer immerses us in the best of baseball, as if we're sitting next to Chipper in the dugout on an endless spring day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Larry Wayne "Chipper" Jones Jr. was a third baseman who spent his entire nineteen-year MLB career playing for the Atlanta Braves and all twenty-three years as a professional baseball player in the Braves organization. An eight-time All-Star and the 1999 National League MVP, he retired in 2012. Born and raised in Florida, he now lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Carroll Rogers Walton is a freelance sports journalist who covered the Braves for nearly twenty years as a beat writer for both the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Macon, Georgia, Telegraph. She lives in her hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina, with her husband and son.

I've read most of the books written about the Braves teams of the 1990s and early 2000s, and this is easily my favorite. Chipper is brutally honest about himself and his feelings on any number of issues (including teammates and rivals). This book actually has insights that surprised me, such as Bobby Cox quitting in 2008 because he couldn't stand working with Frank Wren (they talked him out of it). There is some locker room adult language in the book, so if you're put off by that I'd recommend *Of Mikes and Men: A Lifetime of Braves Baseball*. Other than that, this book is an easy and very interesting read.

This was an excellent book that I could not put down. You don't have to be a Braves fan or even a Chipper fan to enjoy this book. It was well written and really gives good insight on what it was like for Chipper growing up as a elite young prospect, going through the draft process and realizing his dream of playing professional baseball. He doesn't sugarcoat anything and owns up to his mistakes in his personal life which I admired. I especially enjoyed his stories of his fellow teammates and what it was like playing and goofing around with Maddux, Glavine, Smoltz and Bobby Cox among others. A must read for baseball fans and a great biography!

Somehow reads exactly as you would expect Chipper to talk and act. Full of cockiness and bravado, but also just enough self deprecation to keep it bearable. So many good stories and insights on his career and fellow players. The stuff on the big 3 pitchers is worth the purchase alone. His youth and minor league recollections were surprisingly highly interesting and a major plus. As for the personal life stuff, I thought it was not really all that exciting, but I suppose he would have

gotten a lot of flack had he left the soap opera stuff out. I am a huge Braves fan and thought the world of Chipper on the field and in his interviews, and this book is a great and highly entertaining telling of a great career. Golden if you love the Braves, but I am certain any baseball fan would enjoy, including Mets fans!

I totally enjoyed this book. My younger daughter and I went to so many Braves' games during these years, Spring Training games, the last game in the old Fulton County Stadium and the first game at the "TED". Reading Chipper's book was like hearing from an old friend and reliving a lot of very precious memories since I lost my daughter five years ago to cancer. Anyone who loves baseball would enjoy this book. But, if you are an Atlanta Braves fan, your library is not complete without it.

A must read for all Braves fans and others who like baseball. Very well done and insightful.

Wanted to give it a 3.5. 3 seemed too harsh, 4 too nice. This is a good baseball book. Can pick up some pointers about how to play, but not as much as I expected. Also gives insight to the stresses of being a player, but also gives insight to how character or lack thereof leads to situations.

I've lived in Atlanta for 37 years. I remember hearing about Chipper Jones when he was drafted and then waiting for him to clear the minor league system. He was worth the wait. His personal troubles aside, he played the game the right way. The team winning was always his focus. Thanks for a great 19 years and for a nice read on a warm summer day.

Chipper and Carroll not only take you inside the mind and career of one of the greatest switch hitters of all time, he's amazingly candid about his personal life. This book is so much of a tour de force of Chipper the businessman, Chipper the husband, Chipper the Father, Chipper the diplomat in navigating relationships with a United Nations of players in the clubhouses of his career, that you put the book down with so much more respect for Chipper the Man and his parents Larry and Lynne Jones. I hope they make a movie from this book.

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