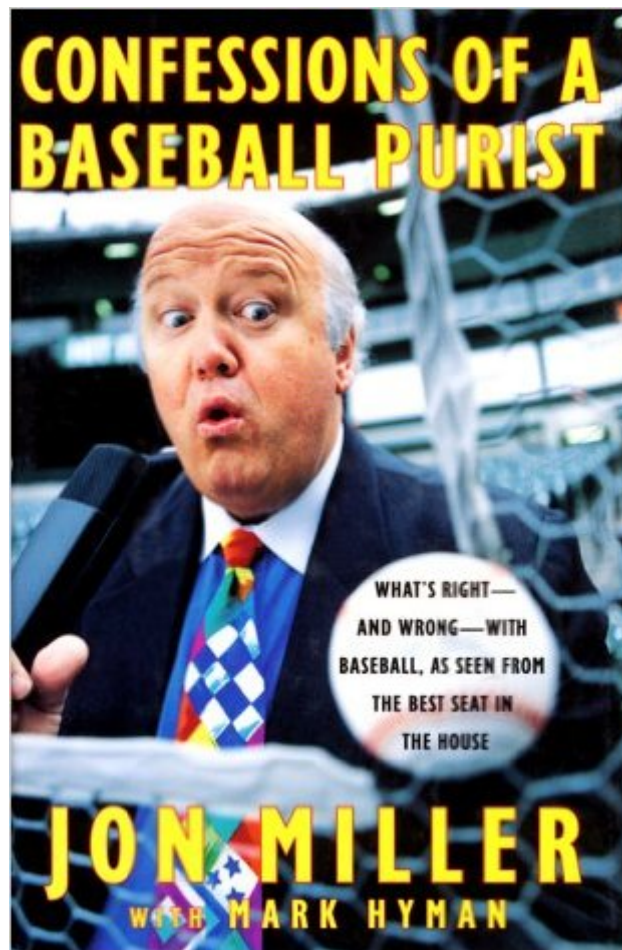


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# Confessions Of A Baseball Purist: Whats Right And Wrong With Baseball As Seen From The Best Seat In The House



## Synopsis

The author offers his views on the state of baseball today, and comments on his experiences as a sportscaster.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

OK, OK, so I'm an Oriole fan, and still grieving Jon Miller's departure for points west. I admit it. Still, I think I can objectively say: this is a terrific read. Miller is smart, opinionated, and articulate, and he *\*loves\** baseball. Moreover, he is acutely conscious of the game's history, and the lessons and perspectives to be gleaned from it. More important, he exhibits a fine sense of humor that doesn't stop at his own doorstep. Any serious baseball fan, anywhere, should enjoy this book.

This is one of the better books on baseball I've read, I'd happily pay for an expanded edition covering Miller's career since this book was published. Although autobiographical, this book has several chapters examining specific issues in baseball rather than Miller's life. One such chapter deals with the great but erratic team owner Charlie Finley whose winning Oakland A's team still had poor attendance. I didn't find these issue-specific chapters distracting, actually I thought they were very informative, e.g. the chapter on the importance of keeping a detailed score sheet during games. Miller's love of the game shines forth in this book, and his contempt for those in positions of power in baseball who want to make radical changes to the game seemingly without having thought it through is in my view completely understandable. Put all the eastern teams into the American

League and all the western teams into the National League? No wonder Miller doesn't hold Bud Selig in very high regard. Miller isn't afraid to praise those in baseball he admires, but it is refreshing to see a broadcaster tell it like it is when he sees something or someone in the game who deserves criticism. It's also to Miller's credit that he isn't afraid to mock himself as he does throughout this book, often summing up his own actions with the phrase, "What an idiot!" Of course he is anything but an idiot, he's one of the best broadcasters baseball has ever seen, and this book is highly recommended to those who love the game and would like a peek behind the scenes as seen by hall of famer Jon Miller.

More of a memoir than anything else, the book is unflaggingly interesting and funny, especially if one can imagine Miller himself reading it. An audiocassette version of this book might well be the ultimate way to experience it. In any case, it just breezes by, leaving you with a warm feeling and a greater desire to hear more Miller broadcasts afterward.

I already knew that ESPN's Miller was the game's preeminent play-by-play man; "Confessions..." proves that he's a most capable writer as well. With a highly enjoyable mixture of autobiography, anecdote, and opinion on the state of the sport in the '90s, Miller lets his obvious love for the pastime shine through. I don't agree with all of his opinions (this purist hates the DH), but I love his style. It's a welcome antidote to more pedantic mouthpieces like Bob Costas and George Will. END

I received this book along with Joe Morgan's as a Christmas present, and it was interesting to read them in tandem, as it shows why they are such a complementary broadcast team. Miller's book is more an anecdotal memoir than a detailed analysis of the game, but that doesn't spoil the enjoyment of it. His tribute to Ken Coleman, the retired Red Sox radio broadcaster, brought back to this Red Sox fan vivid memories of Miller's all-too-brief stay in Boston. The book, however, suffered from an editing job that assumed that the reader had a familiarity with Miller's personal life and career history. For example, there are several references to his first marriage which both assume that the reader knows that Miller was married before and why it ended. But these references are extraneous and add nothing to this picture of Miller as broadcaster and baseball purist -- which, after all, is the book's primary focus.

Had an opportunity to read this book over the Thanksgiving holiday...just couldn't put it down. Jon Miller gives baseball fans and purists an updated insider's view on many of the issues that are of

prime concern to today's baseball fans such as: the designated hitter, interleague play, outrageous salaries, current and future hall of famers; and he gives you all the details of his divorce with the Baltimore Orioles and notes interesting tidbits about Baltimore's greedy and incompetent owner -- Peter Angelos. Easy to read. Easy to understand and enjoy.

A wonderful book from a man who loves his baseball, not to mention being one of the finest announcers in the game today. This is must reading for baseball lovers and Major League Baseball Executives!

A wonderful look at baseball with interesting stories as seen from the Broadcasting booth. Written by one of the best sports announcers of all time Jon Miller. Must reading for any baseball fan!

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