



The Yankee Years

Joe Torre , Tom Verducci

Download now

Read Online →

The Yankee Years

Joe Torre , Tom Verducci

The Yankee Years Joe Torre , Tom Verducci

Twelve straight playoff appearances. Six American League pennants. Four World Series titles. This is the definitive story of a dynasty: the Yankee years

When Joe Torre took over as manager of the New York Yankees in 1996, the most storied franchise in sports had not won a World Series title in eighteen years. The famously tough and mercurial owner, George Steinbrenner, had fired seventeen managers during that span. Torre's appointment was greeted with Bronx cheers from the notoriously brutal New York media, who cited his record as the player and manager who had been in the most Major League games without appearing in a World Series

Twelve tumultuous and triumphant years later, Torre left the team as the most beloved and successful manager in the game. In an era of multimillionaire free agents, fractured clubhouses, revenue-sharing, and off-the-field scandals, Torre forged a team ethos that united his players and made the Yankees, once again, the greatest team in sports. He won over the media with his honesty and class, and was beloved by the fans.

But it wasn't easy.

Here, for the first time, Joe Torre and Tom Verducci take us inside the dugout, the clubhouse, and the front office in a revelatory narrative that shows what it really took to keep the Yankees on top of the baseball world. The high-priced ace who broke down in tears and refused to go back to the mound in the middle of a game. Constant meddling from Yankee executives, many of whom were jealous of Torre's popularity. The tension that developed between the old guard and the free agents brought in by management. The impact of revenue-sharing and new scouting techniques, which allowed other teams to challenge the Yankees' dominance. The players who couldn't resist the after-hours temptations of the Big Apple. The joys of managing Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera, and the challenges of managing Alex Rodriguez and Jason Giambi. Torre's last year, when constant ultimatums from the front office, devastating injuries, and a freak cloud of bugs on a warm September night in Cleveland forced him from a job he loved.

Through it all, Torre kept his calm, kept his players' respect, and kept winning.

And, of course, *The Yankee Years* chronicles the amazing stories on the diamond. The stirring comeback in the 1996 World Series against the heavily favored Braves. The wonder of 1998, when Torre led the Yanks to the most wins in Major League history. The draining and emotional drama of the 2001 World Series. The incredible twists and turns of the epic Game 7 of the 2003 American League Championship Series against the Red Sox, in which two teams who truly despised each other battled pitch by pitch until the stunning extra-inning home run.

Here is a sweeping narrative of Major League Baseball in the Yankee era, a book both grand in its scope and fascinating in its details.

The Yankee Years Details

Date : Published February 3rd 2009 by Doubleday Books (first published January 1st 2009)

ISBN : 9780385527408

Author : Joe Torre , Tom Verducci

Format : Hardcover 502 pages

Genre : Sports and Games, Sports, Baseball, Nonfiction, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir

 [Download The Yankee Years ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Yankee Years ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Yankee Years Joe Torre , Tom Verducci

From Reader Review The Yankee Years for online ebook

Caroline says

There was certainly a lot of hype for this book ("A-Fraud"), but what everyone was dealing with were, in fact, the title of Chapter 8: "The Issues of Alex". The book was good, very funny, but also a little gimmicky. Not every game 7 is the "greatest game ever played". Even if one of them (2001 World Series, 2003 ALCS, 2004 ALCS) was the greatest, surely all three of them weren't! The 3 greatest games ever played probably did not happen within 4 years of one another. The way Torre and Verducci told them, they sure did sound thrilling, though! (I did not watch any of them, unfortunately, not having TV reception before 2008.) Also, they kept praising Derek Jeter. We know he's a great leader...you don't have to tell us 700 times! And also said 700 times: Torre's players were "good soldiers" and "great warriors". This isn't the military, it's sports! And there was a lot of unnecessary information, such as Fausto Carmona's life story. Why do we need to know that he had dental problems? How does that pertain to the Yankees? Also, no mention was made of the whole Scott Brosius/Drew Henson problem. Which DID happen. I'd like to retitile some of the chapters, though:
10 should have been called, instead of "End of the Curse", "Let Us Make You Curse Because of All These Odds We Give You".
11 should have been called, instead of "The Abyss", "You Can't Have Too Little Pitching (Just Ask George)".
But other than that, it was well-written and really fun to read! If you like baseball, you'll like reading about 12 seasons of the New York Yankees.

Kevin McGinn says

I love everything New York Yankees related so I enjoyed this book. I liked how he praised Derek Jeter (he's also my favorite player) and trashed A-Fraud.

Dustin says

This book came out on the heels of an ugly divorce between manager Joe Torre and a Yankees team that he led to unprecedented success in the modern baseball world. It's because of this that I went into this book with an open mindset. In my experience, these 'tell-all' non-fiction sports books that come out shortly after the experiences take place have a tendency to be more flash than substance. The book caused quite a stir when it came out, at least in the 24-hour ESPN news cycle, and so I was skeptical as to how much of this book's hype was based on the book itself... And how much of the hype was based on the sensationalist material in it, ala Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big (to be fair, there can be a lot of overlap with these points).

Autobiographies like this one tend to be, for lack of a better way of putting this, completely one-sided... It's not surprising in reading this book that given any controversy that ever came up within the Yankee team and organization that Joe Torre comes off as the reasonable, calm-headed guy with the right idea while everyone else is running around making boneheaded and impulsive decisions. This isn't to say that Torre is per se lying, but I'm sure the truth lies a lot more in the middle than this book would have you believe.

The first half of the book sees the Yankees rise to prominence and win 4 World Series titles in 5 years. The

storyline centers around how Torre manages the team, the New York media, and his relationships around the organization. The second half of the book sees the Yankees begin to bring in huge money free agents, and things spiral out of control... After the team wins the last World Series championship, the book turns into something out of Entertainment Tonight, with probably 90% drama and 10% sports (not really my thing).

I don't want to bash Joe Torre, because he's a great manager -- The best we've seen in the last probably 25 years at least... But I feel as though there's a lot to be desired here as far as unbiased writing goes. Tom Verducci teams up with Torre, and I feel as though he spends the entire book puffing up Torre as the greatest thing to happen to baseball since stitching (Disclaimer: I have been reading Verducci since I was about 6, and I have never liked him much). There are interesting points in this book about what went on during Torre's time with the Yankees, but because of the clear bias of the writing, I struggled with the second half, and ultimately put it down before finishing.

Amy says

I enjoyed this book, but I really wish it had more of Joe Torre in it instead of Verducci. The book was obviously written by Verducci with quotes and anecdotes from Torre just thrown in.

While baseball is not my favorite sport (I have too much invested in hockey to spend enough time obsessing over another sport), I am a 4th generation Yankees fan from my dad's side of the family and being knowledgeable about the Yankees is pretty much a prerequisite in my family. This book was a great reminder of the Glory Days of the late 90s, and stories from each of the games brought back memories of watching the games with my dad on TV. This book is a great reminder of all the great times the Yankees had, and how instrumental Joe Torre was to their success.

I skimmed over most of the "stat heavy" portions of the book. I really don't care that some Cincinnati pitcher had a score of 492 on his traffic intelligence test, or other irrelevant nonsense.

I'd recommend this for any baseball fan, especially those looking to learn about the years many Yankee fans speak so fondly of.

Steven Peterson says

There are a lot of bad baseball books out there. This is not one of those. Joe Torre's view of his Yankee years is nicely wrought. One of the better works of this genre. . . .

Eric says

After completing reading The Yankee Years (Kindle Edition), I have to say I was left disappointed. While there are several interesting, fun, or insightful anecdotes about the Yankees organization, the majority of the book is spoiled by an endless stream of statistics, constant reiteration, and overall, juvenile writing.

I picked up this book to read the behind-the-scenes stories and going-ons of the Yankee organization. Instead, I got a fairly reiterative summary of the post-seasons under Joe Torre. Though there were some stories about things going on in the club house, or the front office, much of the book read as post-game

summaries.

Overall, I'd say I was disappointed by the book. Frankly, I felt that little, if any, of the book was actually written by Torre; instead he seems to have merely contributed a good portion of the quotes in the book. For those of us who remember "The Yankee Years" under Torre, there is only a handful of interesting additions and insight in this book that we didn't experience first hand, while watching the games. And for those little gems of story telling, that you wouldn't get unless you were in the clubhouse, I wouldn't say it is worth slogging through awkward sentence structure, repetitive statistics, and bland writing in the rest of the book to get to them.

I'd skip this one.

Resonance says

This was an enjoyable book that offers some penetrating glimpses into the life of a big league manager in the highest profile role in MLB -- managing for the Yankees. The book was chock full of anecdotes about various Yankees (players like Paul O'Neill, Derek Jeter and David Cone get quite a bit of positive coverage in this book, where Kevin Brown, David Wells, Roger Clemens, Randy Johnson and of course Alex Rodriguez won't feel too flattered by what they read) and the pressure-cooker environment of the Yankees management and front office. Despite George Steinbrenner's legendarily infamous meddling and head-games, the book depicts him fairly -- the author makes it clear that Steinbrenner may have been a pain in the ass, but he deeply cared about his players and his team and had a heart of gold underneath the cruel exterior.

If the book has a theme about the Yankees, it's that the much maligned free agency acquisitions for which they are known were very much a two edged sword. Torre is very much an 'old baseball' kind of guy who pays attention to stats and sabermetrics but at the end of the day manages with a heart and his gut as much as anything else. Torre believes in team chemistry and although his words are characteristically polite and upbeat, the author makes it clear that the runaway free agent acquisitions the Yankees made during the last eight to ten years of the Torre era made for a very fractious clubhouse and in many cases -- like Johnson, Brown and Pavano -- were incredibly harmful to the club.

I say 'author' because although this book is billed to Joe Torre 'and' Tom Verducci, it's pretty plain that Verducci wrote the entire thing. This is a third person narrative about the Yankees which focuses somewhat, but only somewhat, on Torre's time with the club. That is somewhat different than an autobiographical sketch of Joe Torre -- it's like the author set out to write a book about the Yanks and just interviewed Torre more than anyone else. He's the lead character in a big cast, but it makes the book read a lot more like a very long Sports Illustrated article and a lot less like what I had hoped this book would be -- not a confessional or a tell-all but a personal look at a fairly enigmatic story.

Still, it was an enjoyable read, and did offer more than a few juicy tidbits. The book doesn't shy away from steroids, although it doesn't exactly break any new ground there, and it is generally upbeat, if a bit wistful at times -- the notable exception being when the author discusses the coterie George Steinbrenner kept around him, who gradually started taking over the club as Steinbrenner began physically and mentally declining, who come across largely as an incompetent nest of Machiavellian snakes.

Brad says

The first thing that should be noted about *The Yankee Years* is that the author credit ought to be Tom Verducci and Joe Torre, not vice versa.

The hype surrounding the book suggests that it's Torre's tell-all memoirs, but it's more of an examination of the Yankees while he was the manager. The dominant voice is Verducci and Torre seems to have provided him with insight and privileged perspective. Torre basically anchors the narrative while Verducci explores the championship teams, the various players, the brass, and everything in between.

The Yankee Years is worthwhile read because it accomplishes something most sports books cannot. It walks a line between autobiography and journalism. Thus, because it isn't strictly an autobiography, it avoids many of the problems of sports autobiographies: platitudes, pedestrian writing, self-indulgence, etc. On the other hand, because it's not strictly journalistic, it has an authenticity provided by an insider.

The book is true collaboration that gives the reader an unprecedented perspective into not just the biggest sports franchises in America, but one of the greatest dynasties in the history of sports. Between 1996-2008, Torre lead an underdog Yankee club to 6 World Series appearances, 4 of which ultimately winning. On top of that, he made playoffs in each of his years as manager. Nevertheless, in the end, as the team transformed from a gritty crew to a bloated self-parody, the Yankees brass were uninterested in keeping Torre, and let him leave unceremoniously.

Verducci and Torre take the reader throughout this 12 year span, discussing the highs and lows of managing a team like the Yankees. It analyzes the strengths of the organization (deep pockets, willingness to acquire the big players, unwillingness to accept anything less than a championship) and its weaknesses (reckless spending, obsession with marquee names, obsession with anything less than a championship).

Although the book is overflowing with content, the authors do a poor job prioritizing their focus. The first half of Torre's career is one win after another, from their first win in 1996 to their heartbreaking loss in 2001. Conversely, the second half was full of frustration; flawed but expensive rosters and poor luck resulting in a championship drought. Yet, the book focuses mostly on the latter half of Torre's career, with the championship years receiving less than a third of the attention.

Moreover, the chapters on the championship years felt fragmentary and rushed. The book succeeds when it takes a more limited scope, as it does when it focuses on Steinbrenner and A-Rod, for example. However, while A-Rod and The Boss are given chapters unto themselves, the other great(er) players like Jeter, Rivera, Posada, Pettite, and even Clemens, are only given chunks here and there. Personally, the Core Four are the reason why I liked the Yankees as a kid, and to this day Jeter remains one of my favorite professional athletes.

Nonetheless, *The Yankee Years* is a good read, and I would highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in sports journalism. If you're a fan of baseball, particularly, then it's a must-read. Whether you're a fan of the Yankees or not (Jays fan, myself), this book gives tremendous insight into an iconic team during a highly volatile and transitional age in the MLB.

Ric says

This is a book that I waited to read until I felt like it was the right time, because of its controversy and how important the subject matter is to me. My first memory is Derek Jeter's leadoff home run in game 4 of the 2000 World Series. I remember begging my mother to let me stay up for game 7 of the 2003 ALCS against Boston and crying tears of joy during Aaron Boone's walk-off home run. I remember crying for a very

different reason during game 7 of the 2004 ALCS, when the Yankees blew a 3-0 series lead against the Red Sox. And I remember the midgame against Cleveland in 2007. So I wanted to relive the dynasty, and it was amazing to be able to do so, but I didn't want to do when the Yankees weren't the Yankees, if that makes sense. Now that they're back to that "World Series or bust" attitude, it was time. To hear all of these stories about my idols and heroes growing up was great, and it really brought me back to my childhood. A must read for any Yankee fan, or baseball historian.

Joe says

Yankee fan biblical material.

Mike says

Let me start by saying that "The Yankee Years" isn't the bash-fest that every media outlet made it to be before the book was released to the public. The "A-Fraud" thing is barely mentioned. And when it is, it's in passing. After actually reading the book I don't see what all the uproar was about. I suppose Joe Torre may have breached some kind of locker room blue line of silence but really he didn't tell us anything we didn't know in a broad scope. He and Tom Verducci really just filled in the details. We already knew that Jeter was a leader, A-Rod's a bit of a diva who doesn't quite fit in, O'Neil was crazy intense, Cone was a clubhouse general, Randy Johnson couldn't quite put it together here and is a lil sensitive, Kevin Brown was a psycho and the reason the Yankee teams from 2001 until 2008 didn't win World Series' had far more to do with the choice of players they brought in rather than the decisions made in the dugout. These are all things any baseball fan that paid attention knew.

This, in actuality, was just Joe Torre chronicling his life for the past 12 years. His life just happened to be managing the New York Yankees. These behind-the-scenes baseball books are interesting not for the broad aspects they share, but in the details. The thought process behind decisions is the real attraction here. Why did Torre not go to the mound to check on Joba in that game against the Indians with all those friggin' bugs? How did Wade Boggs take being taken out of the line up? The answers to those questions are the real reason to read this book. If you're looking for a bunch of dirt you won't find it. If you're a Red Sox fan or a Mets fan or any other of the countless other non-Yankee fans hoping to find laughs and derision at the Yankees expense it's not really here. Really, this book is just a tale of the rise and fall of a baseball team. And quite honestly it's quite a tale.

If you're a baseball fan first you'll like this book. If you're one of those fans that hates every team except the one he roots for you probably won't find much joy in it. I liked it and I'm pretty sure this copy will make some rounds before I get it back again.

Jason says

The first half is rich and exciting because the first half of Torre's story is rich and exciting. Two perfect games, four World Series titles (3 of which consecutive), a riveting 2001 Yankees-Diamondbacks series and a team makeup that was exactly that... a team. The second half of the story depicts the slow descent of the team into its evil empire persona. Relationships are ruined, egos are ever prevalent, stats precede strong individual character (a must for playing in New York) and the team dynamic is a distant memory.

The book also covers the changing culture in Major League Baseball from 96-07 including an extensive look at steroids, an increased emphasis on statistical analysis and obscene player salaries.

A must read for any Yankee fan who needs to know the real story behind their beloved organization.

Frank says

When this book was release it garnered tons of attention in the New York area. All the news outlets tried to paint it as a tell all by Torre where he lambasts and lionizes the Yankee players he worked with for twelve seasons. I read this book two years after the dust of the publication settled and can say without a doubt that Torre treats every subject and player with the class New York and the world have come to know him for.

For those he chooses to lionize, he will still point out where they have a flaw or two. He is even more careful to paint the best possible picture of those he reseves the most criticism for. Any criticism is always backed up by like minded opinions of coaches and players and staff there were around the situation.

There really are no great revelations that haven't already been published or covered by the New York or national media outlets. How the book shines best is to get a glimpse of Torre's personal reactions to those memorable moments that were Joe Torre's Yankee Years.

Roy says

For Yankee fans (I count myself as one) who lived through the twelve glorious years that this book covers, there are not many surprises. I would say I knew 80% of it, but it was interesting to hear the manager's perspective (and surprising to hear the manager curse, will this be in an audio book?) When you watch the daily drama of a baseball season, for six-months (seven , in good years) out of the year, you become very familiar with the faces in and around a team. Going into this, I felt I already knew the major characters: Torre, Jeter, Steinbrenner. What I didn't know was how certain personality flaws lead some very successful players down the paths of cheating and failing. In this book you get a better reading on those characters. One of the curious things about the book is that Torre chose to write it while he was still managing, albeit with a new team, in the other league, on the other side of the country. He broke one of the cardinal rules, he told about the inner workings of a clubhouse. One of the major, explicit themes of the book is how Torre manages through trust and I don't think it would be a stretch to say he may have ruined his trust with his players when he broke the code of silence about what was going on inside of the clubhouse.

Verducci does a good job summarizing the important moments over twelve long baseball seasons. I think the true value of this book is as an archive for future baseball fans to read, when all of the important little details have faded from the common memory and all of the important players are retired and off the field. Along with a Yankee dynasty, this was the era of ignored steroid abuse in baseball, and so it is a solid primary source for the further debate and discussion of that era.

Verducci, however, does a clunky job of explaining the surprising events that took place. He relies on percentages and numbers rather than description to tell why a play or an event was so unlikely or momentous. I watched every inning of the calamitous 2004 ALCS, and it is not enough to say, after game 3 "The Red Sox had a 0.85 percent chance of winning the series." Those two weeks during that series were an exhausting, torturous, scarring event, and I wasn't even on the field. I will never forget where I was, how confident I was after game 3, and how low I was when Damon hit the grand slam in game 7. That was no time to rely on historical percentages, those emotional, exhilarating moments are when you need personal accounts, and I did not feel that any of the great or terrible events were properly evoked. I never felt the same

pins and needles from those memories that I do when one of those games comes on Yankees' Classics. This book also fits as an apt eulogy of the Boss. As of this writing, George Steinbrenner is still alive, but he is no longer the noxious force that he used to be. Torre tells of the withering of the Boss into an addled old man, probably for the better of the franchise, but for the worse of the back pages. This book and Ladies and Gentlemen, The Bronx is Burning, (a far better book that takes on a much broader world view) are fitting bookends to the life and times of the character that is The Boss. I won't miss him, but he did pay for some great teams.

Tony Gleeson says

Joe Torre has recently taken some criticism for this book but I would point out that (1) this is really a book by Tom Verducci ABOUT Joe Torre and (2) I really didn't find much "talking out of school" or shocking betrayals of confidence in this book at all. It's a bit strangely paced and phrased, but it's a most interesting look at the New York Yankees, and baseball in general, from 1996-2007, with lots of insights about the game and individual players, and some great anecdotes. One has to remember that despite the facade of aggression and strength that a successful professional athlete needs, a number of these guys can be hypersensitive, vulnerable and downright touchy; the resultant dynamics in a clubhouse full of them can be pretty amazing. Verducci provides a clear background of what was going on throughout Major League Baseball at the time, especially the statistical and "moneyball" revolution and the growing steroid scandal, and constantly puts everything into such statistical perspective that it's almost too much. If you're a baseball fan like myself who can always use a fix of some more information, you'll most likely enjoy this.
