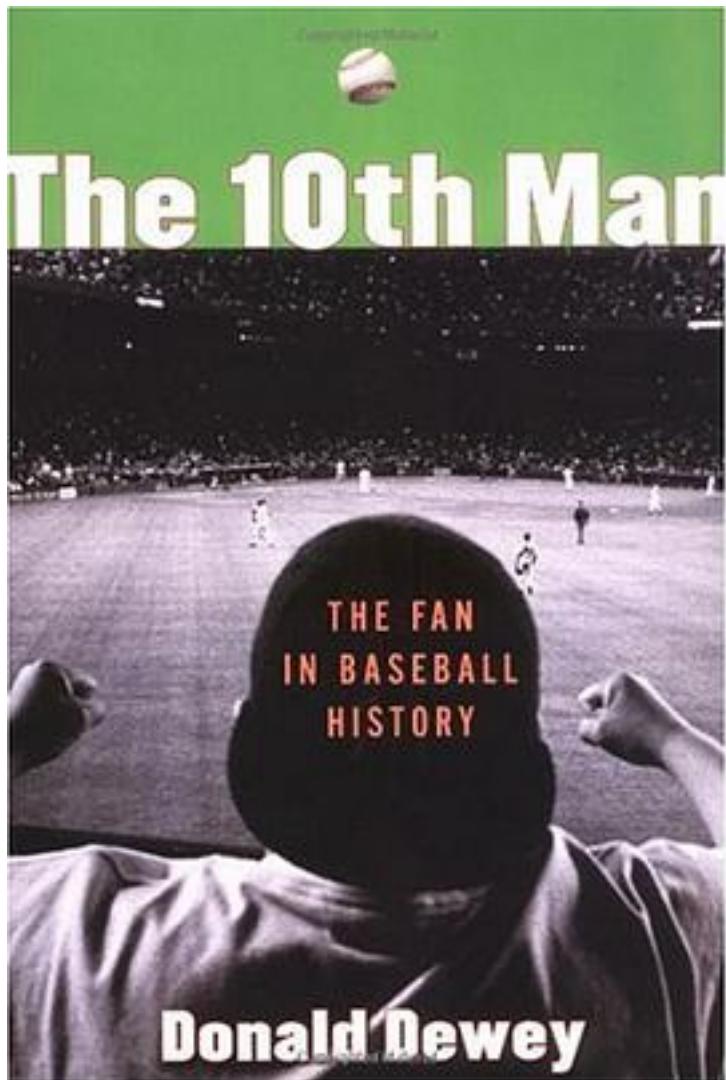


The 10th Man



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The first comprehensive history of the fans of major league baseball—the sport that engenders the most heated love/hate relationship among players, owners, and the paying public Acclaimed writer and baseball historian Donald Dewey has written the long-awaited account of the most important and colorful population within America’s pastime, the fans: Season-ticket holders and impulse ticket buyers, gamblers and groupies, the radio audience of Red Barber and Vin Scully, obsessive collectors, even some of the executives and players themselves, all have invested their dollars and passions in a sport that has sometimes repaid them in spades, and at other times broken their hearts. From the aristocrats in 19th-century Troy, New York, to the thugs penned behind wire security fences in 20th-century Cincinnati to the poolside spectators in 21st-century Phoenix, THE 10TH MAN profiles those who have bought tickets to cheer on the home team and jeer the visitors—or in the case of scornful Phillies fans, sometimes vice versa. Its characters—from Brooklyn’s Hilda Chester with her clanging cowbell to Margo Adams with her palimony suit—sit everywhere from the center field bleachers and the luxury boxes behind home plate to living room couches in front of radios and televisions. The story of baseball’s audience features Babe Ruth as both folklore hero and also baseball’s company logo, fan reaction during baseball’s inglorious run-ins with gambling (from the Black Sox scandal to the Pete Rose controversy), white baseball’s reception of Jackie Robinson, baseball’s continued alienation of black fans, MLB’s ulterior motives behind its publicity efforts during Ripken’s streak and the McGwire–Sosa home run battle, the rise of rotisserie leagues and the statistician movement, and the growing internationalization of the game. All are part of this rich and varied history that every fan of baseball has had a hand in creating.

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