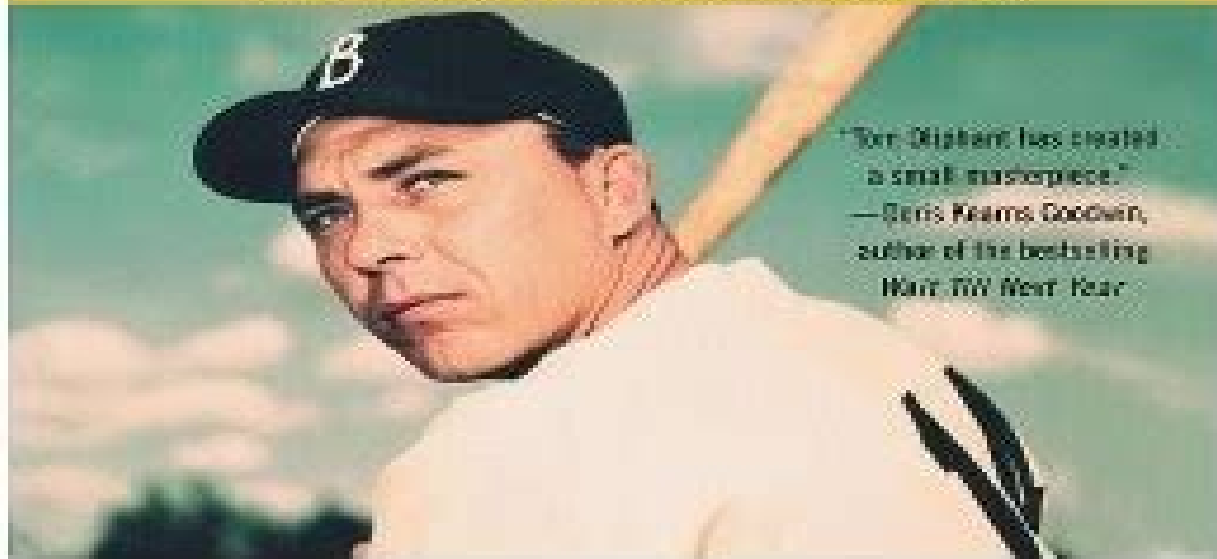


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"Tom Odell has created
a small masterpiece."
—Chris Keams Goodwin,
author of the bestselling
Wart Tm Next Year

PRAYING FOR GIL HODGES

A MEMOIR OF THE 1955 WORLD SERIES
AND ONE FAMILY'S LOVE OF THE BROOKLYN DODGERS

THOMAS OLIPHANT



Praying For Gil Hodges

Joe Cox



Praying For Gil Hodges:

Praying for Gil Hodges Thomas Oliphant, 2006-05-30 Tom Oliphant has created a small masterpiece Doris Kearns Goodwin author of the bestselling *Wait Till Next Year* *Praying for Gil Hodges* is built around a detailed reconstruction of the seventh game of the 1955 World Series when the Brooklyn Dodgers won the world championship of baseball Thomas Oliphant creates a relentless melodrama that shows this final game in its true glory As we move through the game he builds a remarkable history of the Dodgers status as a national team based on their fabled history of near triumphs and disasters that made them classic underdogs He weaves into this brilliant recounting a winning memoir of his own family's story and their time together on that fateful Game Seven day thrilling a nine year old boy in a loving struggling family for whom the Dodgers were a rare source of the joys and symbols that bring families together through tough times Written with power and clarity this is a brilliant work that captures the majesty of baseball the issue of race in America and the love that one young boy his parents and the borough of Brooklyn had for their team In *Praying for Gil Hodges* Tom Oliphant has created a small masterpiece a splendid recreation of life in the 1950s a poignant tribute to his parents and a fabulous story about the central role the Brooklyn Dodgers played in the lives of his and countless other families Moving effortlessly from an adult's perspective to a child's recollection shifting seamlessly between the present and the past he captures the reader's interest at every step along the way I found myself happily transported back in time following a warm hearted young boy as he comes of age in a memorable era Doris Kearns Goodwin author of the bestselling *Wait Till Next Year* Tom Oliphant is one of our most lyrical writers and he has written a love story about his parents about baseball and most of all about the American values that shaped their lives Bob Schieffer *Face the Nation* The story builds to a beautiful and moving resolution proving that the true center of this book is not the seventh game of the World Series The heart of the story is the love of a family for a place a baseball team but mostly for each other The Boston Globe

[Praying for Gil Hodges](#) Thomas Oliphant, 2005-07-01 On a steamy hot Sunday the Reverend Herbert Redmond was celebrating Mass at a church in Brooklyn when he startled his congregation thus It's far too hot for a sermon Keep the Commandments and say a prayer for Gil Hodges *Praying for Gil Hodges* is built around a detailed reconstruction of the seventh game of the 1955 World Series which has always been on the short list of great moments in baseball history On a sunny breezy October afternoon something happened in New York City that had never happened before and never would again the Brooklyn Dodgers won the world championship of baseball For one hour and forty four minutes behind a gutsy twenty three year old kid left hander from the iron mining region of upstate New York named Johnny Podres everything that had gone wrong before went gloriously right for a change Until that afternoon leaving out the war years the Dodgers and their legions of fans had endured ten seasons during which they lost the World Series to the New York Yankees five times and lost the National League pennant on the final day of the season three times facts of history that give the famous cry of *Wait Till Next Year* its defiant meaning Pitch by pitch and inning by inning

Thomas Oliphant re creates a relentless melodrama that shows this final game in its true glory As we move through the game he builds a remarkable history of the hapless Bums exploring the Dodgers status as a national team based on their fabled history of near triumphs and disasters that made them classic underdogs He weaves into this brilliant recounting a winning memoir of his own family s story and their time together on that fateful day that the final game was played This victory thrilled the national African American community still mired in the evils of segregation who had erupted in joy at the arrival of Jackie Robinson eight years earlier and rooted unabashedly for this integrated team at a time when the country was thoroughly segregated And it also thrilled a nine year old boy on the East Side of Manhattan in a loving struggling family for whom the Dodgers were a rare source of the joys and symbols that bring families together through tough times Every once in a while a book provides a certain view of America and whether it is The Greatest Generation Big Russ Me or Wait Till Next Year these works strike a chord with readers everywhere Praying for Gil Hodges is such a book Written with power and clarity this is a brilliant work capturing the majesty of baseball the issue of race in America and the love that one young boy his parents and the borough of Brooklyn had for their team

The Four Home Runs Club Steven K. Wagner,2018-09-14 In all of baseball one record shines as perhaps the most coveted four home runs by one player in a single game If the pinnacle of pitching is the perfect game then the highpoint of hitting is four home runs and only eighteen players in the history of the sport can boast this accomplishment In The Four Home Runs Club Sluggers Who Achieved Baseball s Rarest Feat Steven K Wagner profiles the select group of men who have accomplished the near impossible Drawing on interviews with dozens of current and former major league ballplayers Wagner chronicles the lives of these few who in the space of a few hours left an indelible mark on the game In doing so the author draws attention to the unique features that distinguished some of these events one player homered in three consecutive innings another did it twice in the same inning a third hit two inside the park home runs one added a double and a single in the same game and a fifth player drove in a record tying twelve runs Among the men in this elite club are legends Lou Gehrig Willie Mays and Mike Schmidt as well as recent inductees Shawn Green Scooter Gennett and J D Martinez From the sandlots of Coushatta Louisiana to the suburbs of New York City this book examines the special batsmen who parlayed four mighty swings into baseball immortality A fascinating look into this extraordinary exploit The Four Home Runs Club will appeal to baseball fans everywhere

The Black Bruins James W. Johnson,2019-10-01 The Black Bruins chronicles the inspirational lives of five African American athletes who faced racial discrimination as teammates at UCLA in the late 1930s Best known among them was Jackie Robinson a four star athlete for the Bruins who went on to break the color barrier in Major League Baseball and become a leader in the civil rights movement after his retirement Joining him were Kenny Washington Woody Strode Ray Bartlett and Tom Bradley the four played starring roles in an era when fewer than a dozen major colleges had black players on their rosters This rejection of the gentleman s agreement which kept teams from fielding black players against all white teams inspired black Angelinos and the African

American press to adopt the teammates as their own Kenny Washington became the first African American player to sign with an NFL team in the post World War II era and later became a Los Angeles police officer and actor Woody Strode a Bruins football and track star broke into the NFL with Washington in 1946 as a Los Angeles Ram and went on to act in at least fifty seven full length feature films Ray Bartlett a football basketball baseball and track athlete became the second African American to join the Pasadena Police Department later donating his time to civic affairs and charity Tom Bradley a runner for the Bruins track team spent twenty years fighting racial discrimination in the Los Angeles Police Department before being elected the first black mayor of Los Angeles

Utter Incompetents Thomas Oliphant, 2024-03-26 The problem wasn't just Iraq It didn't even start with Iraq It was bigger than Iraq In fact it was everything George W Bush touched from the very early flop on energy policy to the walking fiasco named Alberto Gonzales Even adding the tragicomedy of Hurricane Katrina doesn't come close to describing the governmental catastrophe of the Bush administration The collapse of the Bush presidency is a broadly acknowledged fact Everyone who's anyone from politicians to comedians has taken shots at this ever growing target By any fair assessment much of the past seven years has been disastrous The challenge is to understand why Few analysts have stepped aside abandoning easy hits and quick gibes and analyzed the totality of the Bush Administration Now bestselling author Thomas Oliphant does just that With his keen experienced eye he asks the simplest of questions How could some of the smartest most experienced and politically savvy people in Washington screw up so badly After all this was the team led by a man with an MBA They came to Washington with the mission to run the government in an orderly businesslike manner Instead chaos has ensued How did this happen From domestic policy to international goofs from soaring energy prices to the health care crisis Thomas Oliphant tackles it all closely inspecting the initial projections and promises of Bush and his key senior officials and the ways in which they lost control of these well publicized and overconfident plans By comparing their rhetoric to their dismal record Oliphant provides a historic analysis of the Bush administration showing how a system so seemingly competent and mechanized could fail so miserably and with such frequency In the wake of the Republican loss of Congress and unmet promises for future change and as the presidential campaign to choose Bush's successor heats up Oliphant provides a rigorous examination of what went wrong and what this means for the next administration Utter Incompetents is at its heart a searching look at the George W Bush administration its policies and the legacy that it will leave behind on January 20 2009 It is also the substantive backdrop for the next president

All Eyes are Upon Us Jason Sokol, 2014-12-02 The Northeastern United States home to abolitionism and a refuge for blacks fleeing the Jim Crow South has had a long and celebrated history of racial equality and political liberalism After World War II the region appeared poised to continue this legacy electing black politicians and rallying behind black athletes and cultural leaders However as historian Jason Sokol reveals in All Eyes Are Upon Us these achievements obscured the harsh reality of a region riven by segregation and deep seated racism White fans from across Brooklyn Irish Jewish and Italian

came out to support Jackie Robinson when he broke baseball's color barrier with the Dodgers in 1947 even as the city's blacks were shunted into segregated neighborhoods The African American politician Ed Brooke won a senate seat in Massachusetts in 1966 when the state was 97% white yet his political career was undone by the resistance to busing in Boston Across the Northeast over the last half century blacks have encountered housing and employment discrimination as well as racial violence But the gap between the northern ideal and the region's segregated reality left small but meaningful room for racial progress Forced to reckon with the disparity between their racial practices and their racial preaching blacks and whites forged interracial coalitions and demanded that the region live up to its promise of equal opportunity A revelatory account of the tumultuous modern history of race and politics in the Northeast *All Eyes Are Upon Us* presents the Northeast as a microcosm of America as a whole outwardly democratic inwardly conflicted but always striving to live up to its highest ideals

Baseball as a Road to God John Sexton, Thomas Oliphant, Peter J. Schwartz, 2014-03-04 Applying to the secular activity of baseball a form of inquiry usually reserved for the study of religion Sexton explores common ground between the game and what we all recognize as religion sacred places and time faith and doubt blessings and curses and more

Jackie Robinson in Quotes Danny Peary, 2016-04-19 A Fresh Look at an Inspiring Historical Figure Jackie Robinson in Quotes tells the life story of arguably the most important baseball player in history with over 400 pages of quotations by and about him Featured are quotes by Robinson his widow Rachel Robinson other family members friends teammates coaches members of the media and many more Danny Peary has skillfully curated the best quotes to shed new light on the man behind number 42 who famously became the first black Major League Baseball player in 1947 The quotes speak for themselves following Robinson through his childhood to his days as a young multi talented athlete his famous first meeting with Branch Rickey and signing with the Dodgers then his exciting Hall of Fame career playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers Read in his own words how he had to face racism and abuse with stoic silence and how later the true Robinson emerged a ballplayer and political activist who refused to stay silent and who for his whole life remained unswerving in his expectation that all Americans be treated equally no matter their color Jackie Robinson in Quotes is a behind the headlines narrative about the making and life of a hero It gives a first hand account of Jackie Robinson's baseball stardom his friendships and rivalries the people he loved and who loved him the issues that troubled him and how he took on all challenges to change the face of America's favorite pastime the country itself and thus history forever

A Fine Team Man Joe Cox, 2019-02-01 Jackie Robinson famously said that a life is not important except for the impact it has on other lives As we celebrate Robinson's 100th birthday in January 2019 *Stealing Home* profiles nine figures whose lives were altered by the great experiment as the integration of baseball was called then Profiled here are Rachel Robinson the stoic but thoughtful wife Branch Rickey the mercurial but far sighted manager owner of the Dodgers Baseball Commissioner Happy Chandler who quietly paved the way for integration Clyde Sukeforth the scout whose assessment of Robinson was crucial to the player's success Red Barber whose own views on

integration were altered by Robinson's example of grace under pressure. Wendell Smith, the prominent black journalist who helped Robinson navigate through the trappings of a racist society; Burt Shotton, who managed Robinson during Robinson's majestic MVP season in 1949; Pee Wee Reese, the Dodgers captain who united the team behind Robinson; and finally Dixie Walker, the veteran Dodgers star who vowed never to play alongside Robinson but who was eventually so moved by Robinson's courage that he spent his last years working to improve the skills of such African American players as Maury Wills, Jim Wynn, and Dusty Baker. As Joe Cox concludes, Perhaps the ultimate measure of the glory of Robinson's quest is that it converted those inclined against it to see all men as equal at least on the great field of baseball.

Mover and Shaker Andy McCue, 2014-05-01 One of the most influential and controversial team owners in professional sports history, Walter O. Malley, 1903-79, is best remembered and still reviled by many for moving the Dodgers from Brooklyn to Los Angeles. Yet much of the O. Malley story leading up to the Dodgers move is unknown or created from myth, and there is substantially more to the man. When he entered the public eye, the self-constructed family background and early life he presented was gilded. Later, his personal story was distorted by some New York sportswriters who hated him for moving the Dodgers. In *Mover and Shaker*, Andy McCue presents for the first time an objective, complete, and nuanced account of O. Malley's life. He also departs from the overly sentimentalized accounts of O. Malley as either villain or angel and reveals him first and foremost as a rational, hardheaded businessman who was a major force in baseball for three decades and whose management and marketing practices radically changed the shape of the game.

The Readers' Advisory Guide to Nonfiction Neal Wyatt, 2007-05-14 Navigating what she calls the extravagantly rich world of nonfiction, renowned readers advisor RA Wyatt builds readers advisory bridges from fiction to compelling and increasingly popular nonfiction to encompass the library's entire collection. She focuses on eight popular categories: history, true crime, true adventure, science, memoir, food, cooking, travel, and sports. Within each, she explains the scope, popularity, style, major authors, and works, and the subject's position in readers advisory interviews. Wyatt addresses who is reading nonfiction and why, while providing RAs with the tools and language to incorporate nonfiction into discussions that point readers to what to read next. In easy-to-follow steps, Wyatt explains the hows and whys of offering fiction and nonfiction suggestions together. Illustrates ways to get up to speed fast in nonfiction. Shows how to lead readers to a variety of books using her read-around and reading map strategies. Provides tools to build nonfiction subject guides for the collection. This hands-on guide includes nonfiction bibliography, key authors, benchmark books with annotations, and core collections. It is destined to become the nonfiction bible for readers advisory and collection development, helping librarians, library workers, and patrons select great reading from the entire library collection.

Pull Up a Chair Curt Smith, 2009 *The Voice of the Dodgers* Welcome to Pottersville Neil Spagnola, 2006-06-01 How The Yankees Took Over New York and Why The Mets Matter More Than Ever. The Mets are the Bailey Brothers Building and Loan versus the Yankees as Henry F. Potter in this humorous, informational, and satirical look at the ongoing battle between New York's

two famous baseball teams If you sit down in front of It s A Wonderful Life every holiday season are a die hard baseball fan particularly those of the New York Mets or a Yankee Detractor you will be entertained and even informed by this unique baseball book **The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, 2007-2008** William M. Simons,2009-06-08 This anthology gathers selected papers from the 2007 and 2008 meetings of the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture the long running academic conference held annually at the National Baseball Hall of Fame Essays included employ the national pastime to comment on issues transcending the playing field and are divided into six sections Cultural Perspectives on the Game Literary Baseball Baseball at the Movies Minority Standard Bearers New Leagues and The Business of Baseball **So You Think You Can Be President?** Iris Burnett,Clay Greager,2011-02-15 So You Think You Can Be President is required reading not just for those of us who have had the audacity to ask ourselves that question but for everyone Senator John Kerry What exactly does the leader of five legislative branches ten executive branches twenty departments ninety five independent agencies and the free world do at his or her job every day More importantly what should the President of the United States POTUS know before she or he is elected Have you ever thought I could do a better job than that bum in the White House Iris Burnett and Clay Greager have devised a hilarious test to see if you yes you are qualified to be the next President of the United States Tackling everything from your incredibly personal details can you account for every penny you have ever made to your stance on hard hitting issues like immigration defense and how many of your rich friends are going to get jobs they are totally unqualified for So You Think You Can Be President is a witty and uproarious send up of our political process **The Wages of Wins** David J. Berri,Martin B. Schmidt,Stacey L. Brook,2007-09-04 Arguing about sports is as old as the games people play Over the years sports debates have become muddled by many myths that do not match the numbers generated by those playing the games In The Wages of Wins the authors use layman s language and easy to follow examples based on their own academic research to debunk many of the most commonly held beliefs about sports In this updated version of their book these authors explain why Allen Iverson leaving Philadelphia made the 76ers a better team why the Yankees find it so hard to repeat their success from the late 1990s and why even great quarterbacks like Brett Favre are consistently inconsistent The book names names and makes it abundantly clear that much of the decision making of coaches and general managers does not hold up to an analysis of the numbers Whether you are a fantasy league fanatic or a casual weekend fan much of what you believe about sports will change after reading this book Brooklyn Dodgers Transactions, 1890-1957 Lyle Spatz,2024-12-30 Baseball transactions trades sales purchases free agents coming or leaving have always had the ability to stir the interest and passion of fans Whether it is the purchase or sale of a veteran star during the heat of a pennant race a multi player trade made during the dead of winter or the offseason scramble for desirable free agents player transactions engender more interest and heated debate among fans than almost any other aspect of the game Baseball fans love trades they love to hear about them to read

about them and to talk about them They even love those that are rumored but don't get made This book covers the transactions of the Brooklyn Dodgers one of the game's most storied teams from their 1890 entry into the National League until their 1957 move to Los Angeles For significant transactions players and the deal are placed in historical perspective covering why the Dodgers and the other teams involved made the exchange the expectations the owners general managers and managers of the respective teams had for their new players and for most what the players involved thought about their old and new teams The history of the Brooklyn Dodgers trades represents a microcosm of the history of baseball and that history is covered here in fine detail *Baseball's Brotherhood Team* Bryan Stevenson, 2018-02-22 In the Book of Genesis when Cain is confronted by God regarding the death of his brother he replies Am I my brother's keeper Within these pages players respond affirmatively to this century's age-old question They took stands against prejudice during times in our country when it was not the norm Their courage serves as a model for all of us today These players lived the biblical challenge of loving your neighbor This is the third book by the author of inspirational stories about players from our national pastime Fifteen members of our National Baseball Hall of Fame are here as well as others of lesser fame The examples include 19th century baseball Babe Ruth and Pete Rose Each player was special Each story inspirational Branch Rickey Lee Lowenfish, 2022-08-15 He was not much of a player and not much more of a manager but by the time Branch Rickey 1881-1965 finished with baseball he had revolutionized the sport not just once but three times In this definitive biography of Rickey the man sportswriters dubbed The Brain The Mahatma and on occasion El Cheapo Lee Lowenfish tells the full and colorful story of a life that forever changed the face of America's game As the mastermind behind the Saint Louis Cardinals from 1917 to 1942 Rickey created the farm system which allowed small market clubs to compete with the rich and powerful Under his direction in the 1940s the Brooklyn Dodgers became truly the first America's team By signing Jackie Robinson and other black players he single-handedly thrust baseball into the forefront of the civil rights movement Lowenfish evokes the peculiarly American complex of God family and baseball that informed Rickey's actions and his accomplishments His book offers an intriguing richly detailed portrait of a man whose life is itself a crucial chapter in the history of American business sport and society *I Can't Breathe* Matt Taibbi, 2018-09-04 A work of riveting literary journalism that explores the roots and repercussions of the infamous killing of Eric Garner by the New York City police from the bestselling author of *The Divide* NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST On July 17 2014 a forty-three-year-old black man named Eric Garner died on a Staten Island sidewalk after a police officer put him in what has been described as an illegal chokehold during an arrest for selling bootleg cigarettes The final moments of Garner's life were captured on video and seen by millions His agonized last words I can't breathe became a rallying cry for the nascent Black Lives Matter protest movement A grand jury ultimately declined to indict the officer who wrestled Garner to the pavement Matt Taibbi's deeply reported retelling of these events liberates Eric Garner from the abstractions of newspaper accounts

and lets us see the man in full with all his flaws and contradictions intact A husband and father with a complicated personal history Garner was neither villain nor victim but a fiercely proud individual determined to do the best he could for his family bedeviled by bad luck and ultimately subdued by forces beyond his control In America no miscarriage of justice exists in isolation of course and in I Can t Breathe Taibbi also examines the conditions that made this tragedy possible Featuring vivid vignettes of life on the street and inside our Kafkaesque court system Taibbi s kaleidoscopic account illuminates issues around policing mass incarceration the underground economy and racial disparity in law enforcement No one emerges unsullied from the conservative district attorney who half heartedly prosecutes the case to the progressive mayor caught between the demands of outraged activists and the foot dragging of recalcitrant police officials A masterly narrative of urban America and a scathing indictment of the perverse incentives built into our penal system I Can t Breathe drills down into the particulars of one case to confront us with the human cost of our broken approach to dispensing criminal justice Brilliant Taibbi is unsparing in his excoriation of the system police and courts This is a necessary and riveting work Booklist starred review

Adopting the Beat of Appearance: An Emotional Symphony within **Praying For Gil Hodges**

In a global consumed by screens and the ceaseless chatter of quick transmission, the melodic elegance and emotional symphony developed by the prepared term often diminish in to the back ground, eclipsed by the relentless noise and distractions that permeate our lives. But, set within the pages of **Praying For Gil Hodges** an enchanting fictional treasure filled with natural emotions, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Crafted by a masterful composer of language, that charming masterpiece conducts visitors on a psychological trip, well unraveling the concealed songs and profound affect resonating within each cautiously constructed phrase. Within the depths of this emotional examination, we shall examine the book is central harmonies, analyze its enthralling writing style, and surrender ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

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Praying For Gil Hodges Introduction

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