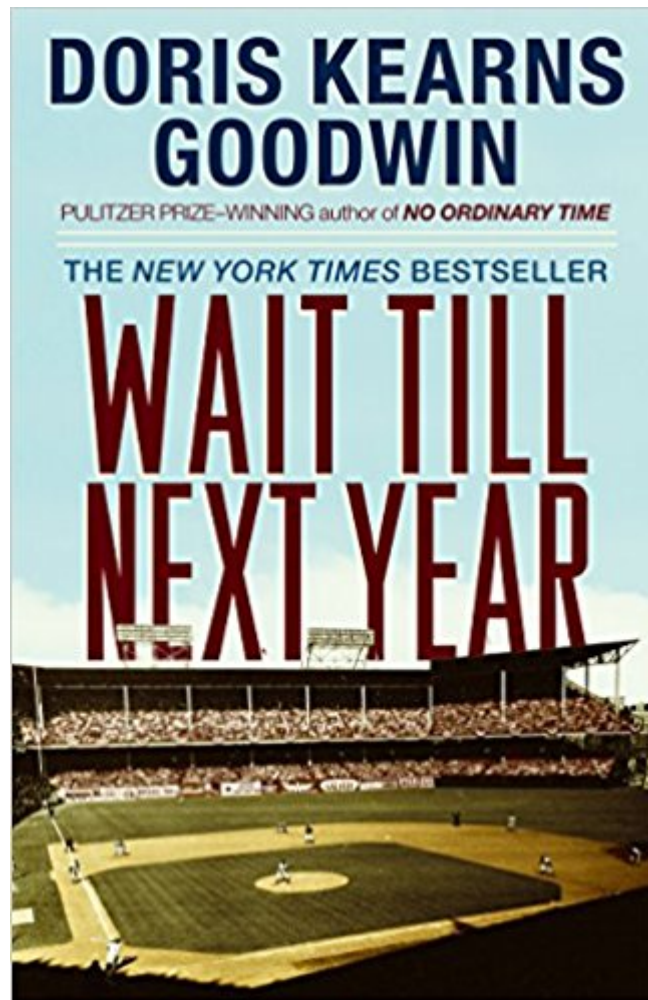




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# Wait Till Next Year - A Memoir



## Synopsis

By the award-winning author of *Team of Rivals* and *The Bully Pulpit*, *Wait Till Next Year* is Doris Kearns Goodwin's touching memoir of growing up in love with her family and baseball. Set in the suburbs of New York in the 1950s, *Wait Till Next Year* re-creates the postwar era, when the corner store was a place to share stories and neighborhoods were equally divided between Dodger, Giant, and Yankee fans. We meet the people who most influenced Goodwin's early life: her mother, who taught her the joy of books but whose debilitating illness left her housebound; and her father, who taught her the joy of baseball and to root for the Dodgers of Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, and Gil Hodges. Most important, Goodwin describes with eloquence how the Dodgers' leaving Brooklyn in 1957, and the death of her mother soon after, marked both the end of an era and, for her, the end of childhood.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When historian Goodwin was six years old, her father taught her how to keep score for "their" team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. While this activity forged a lifelong bond between father and daughter, her mother formed an equally strong relationship with her through the shared love of reading. Goodwin recounts some wonderful stories in this coming-of-age tale about both her family and an era when baseball truly was the national pastime that brought whole communities together. From details of specific games to descriptions of players, including Jackie Robinson, a great deal of the narrative centers around the sport. Between games and seasons, Goodwin relates the impact of pivotal historical events, such as the Rosenberg trial. Her end of innocence follows with the destruction of

Ebbets Field, her mother's death, and her father's lapse into despair. Goodwin gives listeners reason to consider what each of us has retained of our childhood passions. A poignant but unsentimental journey for all adults and, of course, especially for baseball fans. --Jeanne P. Leader, Everett Community Coll., Wash. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pulitzer Prizewinning historian Goodwin (*No Ordinary Time*, 1994, etc.) turns her gaze inward, looking back on a childhood enlivened by books and baseball. In many ways Goodwin had a typical '50s girlhood. She grew up on suburban Long Island at a time when many families were relocating to such communities. Her father worked, her mother was a homemaker. Perhaps the biggest difference between Goodwin and other girls growing up in this era was her deep and abiding enthusiasm for baseball. When she was six, she recalls, her father gave her a score book and taught her how to use it, a gift that "opened [her] heart to baseball." Retelling games for her father's benefit after he came home from work was her "first lesson . . . in narrative art." One can easily see how re-creating these games from the score book taught her to harness her imagination to quotidian details to re-create history. If baseball bonded her more deeply to her father, books served the same purpose in her relationship with her mother, a sickly woman with severe angina and numerous other problems. Goodwin also offers a child's-eye view of the Cold War, from the lunacy of bomb shelters and "duck and cover" drills to a particularly disturbing memory of reenacting the McCarthy hearings with other neighborhood children. Gradually we see her neighborhood unraveling under economic pressures, the Dodgers and Giants moving to the West Coast, and finally, her mother dying of an apparent heart attack at 51. Regrettably, Goodwin recounts all this in unimaginative prose, offering surprisingly few original insights into either baseball or the sociopolitical currents of the time. Except for the final chapter about her mother's death and her father's subsequent depression and drinking problems, the book falls far short of her compelling historical narratives. (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Doris Kearns Goodwin is a superb writer, no ifs or buts about it. She could write a washing machine manual and I'd probably still gobble it up. She has a gift of conjuring up the past so vividly, so real, so believable, that you feel as if you're right there with her as it's happening. You can feel the excitement as she's waiting for her father to come home from work so she can read him the baseball stats she painstakingly put

together from that day. As game on the radio, you can hear the cheers in the ballpark as she gets to go to her very first Brooklyn Dodgers game, you are holding your breath with her when it comes down to the final strike and the final out in the last game of the season, you simply become that little girl with all her dreams and hopes and sometimes disappointments of growing up in 1950s America. I don't think you have to be a baseball fan to love this book. It's simply a good memoir all around. But if you love baseball, especially in the glory days of Jackie Robinson (who is Goodwin's hero) you're in for a particular treat. I don't know what it is about that era, but it always has an especially strong pull on me. There were parallels to John Grisham's *A Painted House* an atypical Grisham novel set in 1950s Arkansas that in my opinion is among Grisham's best in that it also has the fate of a beloved baseball team as its central thread, together with the outsize role played by radio broadcasts of the games. We might have many more modern conveniences today, we might be better off in so many ways, but being transported back into this golden era of baseball by the magic of Goodwin's storytelling will leave you with an almost painful yearning for a simpler, more wholesome world.

This was such a good story - the baseball part of the story was so interesting that I am now a baseball fan. I've NEVER watched baseball, but Goodwin is such a skilled writer that I felt the excitement of her beloved Brooklyn Dodgers' progress to win the championship. How her love for the Dodgers is woven into the story of her early family life was so moving that it made me wish that era of baseball was still part of our lives in the way it was for her, her family, and her neighborhood. This was a touching memoir - I prayed for her mother's health, wept during their sorrow, and find myself identifying with her love and respect for her father. My father was also a self-made man, coming from very disadvantaged beginnings but he was such a bright, loving, hardworking man who never let his difficult early life affect his optimism and belief in oneself. I listened to her story first in audio format and loved it so much I bought the book for my kindle to read again. Wonderful and beautifully written, with such love in her memories - it was one of the best memoirs I've ever read.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I was 12 in 1945 and could follow all the teams (only 16). I could relate to her enthusiasm of baseball and the players at that time. As an Oriole Fan 1967-2016, I could relate to always being a close but not winning. "Wait till Next year". Her stories of the neighborhood and close relationships with the merchants and her describing the threat of contacting

Polio, the air raid drills, etc. refreshed similar childhood memories, as I grew up in small town in the 40s&50s. Her reflections as a young girl 7-16 (70 years ago) were refreshing & humorous. Some of you will relate well, as I did, and to the younger generations. It is a great snapshot of what the world was like growing up 70 years ago. The book was a fast read and certainly worthwhile and a pleasure to read.

This memoir is a wonderful telling of a childhood filled with baseball and the beach and a close-knit suburban community. It is rich in description and sentiment. Although I grew up 50 years later, I can relate to the sun-drenched memories of a childhood of happiness and security. Moving away from that and into adulthood is painful in the way of things that change you and cause you to see the world through new eyes. The pace is slow, but very fulfilling.

What could be better than one of my favorite authors writing about my favorite team! Doris Kearns Goodwin's style is personal and present, drawing the reader in to view the flesh and blood circumstances of her story. She has few rivals as an historian and clearly as a memoir writer, seamlessly revealing the part history (in this case, Dodger history) has played in shaping her young years. I have recommended this book to several friends, and am happy to do that here. I listened to some of it on the Audible version, which was also a treat.

My wife and I grew up in the same time period and could relate to her stories. She writes in such a way that you can see her in your mind doing the things she was doing. If you love baseball read the book that takes you back to a simpler time. Even if you are not a baseball fan you will enjoy hearing about the time of safe neighborhoods, corner stores, the first TVs and listening to games on the radio. If you are a Cubs fan, a Red Sox fan or a Philadelphia fan or any of the other teams that waited so long for a World Series win you will relate..

Doris Kearns Goodwin tells a great easy to get wrapped in account of her youth in NYC in the 1950s which is nostalgic and encapsulating. Her youth was centered around baseball - the rivalries between the Dodgers, Yankees, and Giants and to hear her tell stories of going to the corner store and how her Dad taught her to diligently keep score bring back times when the game was real and life was centered around family and community. This was a very enjoyable read. Thanks Ms Kearns Goodwin for sharing and writing about your youth!!

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