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Contact: Jennifer Bernard  
212.366.2007  
[jennifer.bernard@us.penguinroup.com](mailto:jennifer.bernard@us.penguinroup.com)

The “Greatest Game” Through the Greatest Perspective...

# PERFECT

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## Don Larsen’s Miraculous World Series Game and the Men Who Made It Happen

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by **LEW PAPER**

“This gem of a story brilliantly recreates one of the greatest moments in baseball history by interweaving the intense drama of the game with superb portraits of key players... *Perfect* captures our hearts as it carries us back to the golden age of baseball and the more innocent world of the 1950’s.”

—**Doris Kearns Goodwin**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wait Till Next Year*

“Paper writes each profile with a fan’s passion. It’s to his credit that chapters on oft-covered icons such as Robinson, Mantle, and Berra are compelling as well. A must-read for baseball fans, this book is a terrific tribute to when baseball was really the national pastime.”

—**Publishers Weekly**

“If you think you knew all there is to know about Don Larsen’s perfect game, think again... The Dodgers couldn’t come through against Larsen, but with this charming, meticulously researched book, Lew Paper has connected with a resounding hit.”

—**Jonathan Eig**, author of *The Luckiest Man: The Life and Times of Lou Gehrig* and  
*Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson’s First Season*

In the 105-year history of the Major League Baseball World Series, 606 games have been played, with 1,212 starting pitchers. Of those, 218 have pitched for 9 innings or more. Only one World Series pitcher has gone nine full innings and retired 27 batters with zero hits and zero runs. That pitcher is New York Yankee Don Larsen, and his incredible feat on a warm October afternoon was the “greatest moment” in

—MORE—

World Series history according to *The New York Times*, and the subject of **PERFECT: Don Larsen's Miraculous World Series Game and the Men Who Made it Happen** (New American Library Hardcover; September 29; \$24.95).

**PERFECT** is the amazing inning-by-inning breakdown of Game 5 of the 1956 World Series where the New York Yankees were pitted against perennial rivals the Brooklyn Dodgers. There hadn't even been a regular season perfect game in 34 years. These are the stories of the 19 people who had the best seats in the house that October day - the 19 players who actually appeared in the game. Author Lew Paper spent six years researching and interviewing players, managers, reporters, and families of those legendary players who took part in the historic match-up.

In a remarkable telling of both the game, and of these players' stories, author Lew Paper has created a unique contribution to baseball literature, and the story of baseball in mid-20th century. Some were famous, some obscure, but all were together in Yankee Stadium on that one day to witness and take part in history. **PERFECT** also provides another perspective into some of the most explosive issues that continue to prompt debate among baseball fans, such as then St. Louis Cardinal Enos Slaughter's slide into and spiking of Jackie Robinson and whether it was intentional or an accident.

From racial and ethnic discrimination to less than ideal traveling conditions, small salaries that required players to have jobs in the off season, and the broken marriages that resulted from careers and lives spent on the road. **PERFECT** is an affecting and meticulously researched celebration of the players who witnessed and contributed to the only perfect game in World Series history.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Lew Paper** is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Harvard Law School and holds a master's degree in law from Georgetown University Law School. He has held a variety of positions in the public and private sectors, including a fellowship with Georgetown University Law School's Institute of Public Interest Representation, Legislative Counsel to Senator Gaylord Nelson in the United States Senate, and Associate General Counsel at the Federal Communications Commission. He is the author of *John F. Kennedy: The Promise and The Performance*, *Brandeis: An Intimate Biography*, *Empire: William S. Paley and The making of CBS*; and *Deadly Risks*. His articles and book reviews have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, and *The American Scholar*. He currently practices law in Washington, DC.

**PERFECT: Don Larsen's Miraculous World Series Game and the Men Who Made It Happen**

**Lew Paper**

**New American Library**

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