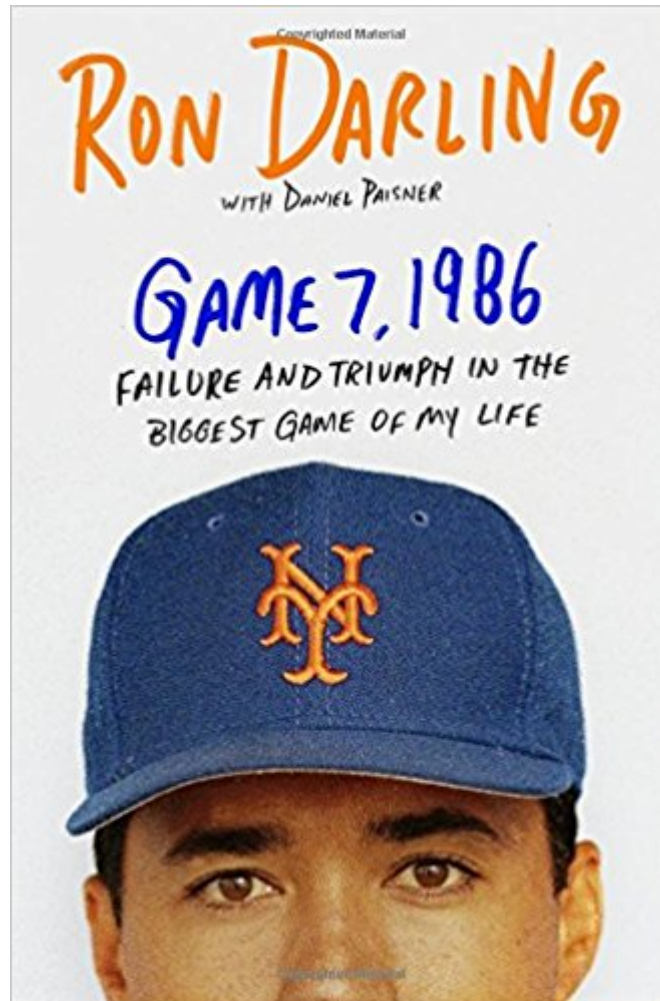


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# Game 7, 1986: Failure And Triumph In The Biggest Game Of My Life



## Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller Every little kid who's ever taken the mound in Little League dreams of someday getting the ball for Game Seven of the World Series. Ron Darling got to live that dream - only it didn't go exactly as planned. In New York Times bestselling *Game 7*, 1986, the award-winning baseball analyst looks back at what might have been a signature moment in his career, and reflects on the ways professional athletes must sometimes shoulder a personal disappointment as their teams find a way to win. Published to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the 1986 New York Mets championship season, Darling's book will break down one of baseball's great "forgotten" games - a game that stands as a thrilling, telling, and tantalizing exclamation point to one of the best-remembered seasons in Major League Baseball history. Working once again with New York Times best-selling collaborator Daniel Paisner, who teamed with the former All-Star pitcher on his acclaimed 2009 memoir, *"The Complete Game,"* Darling offers a book for the thinking baseball fan, a chance to reflect on what it means to compete at the game's highest level, with everything on the line.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 125006919X

ISBN-13: 978-1250069191

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (39 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #54,462 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Â Books > Biographies &

Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #59 in Â Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #648

in Â Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

## Customer Reviews

Ron Darling takes a detailed stroll down memory lane for a night most Met Fans see as one of the greatest evenings in the history of the organization. Darling, however, looks back on it differently. Recall the events with the former Major League pitcher and current SNY analyst as he remembers not only this evening, but some of the events leading up to his fateful start against the Boston Red Sox and chance meeting with baseball immortality. In true Charles Dickensâ™ Christmas Carol

fashion, be prepared to walk alongside Ron Darling as he revisits the ghosts of games past and reflects upon a multitude of crucial moments that could seem ancillary to even the most perceptive of fans. You are the silent passenger in the recesses of his memory as he paints a vivid picture of the mental roller coaster ride he experienced in that 1986 Fall Classic deciding game. Eternally regal, magnanimous and dubbed by himself as solipsistic at some points, Darling delivers the unique workings of an Ivy League level thought process that preceded Game 7 in 1986. (The G, capitalized as Darling did, to emphasize the significance) If you are looking for the dirt about the "Bad Boys of Baseball"™, search for another read. Ron Darling remains impressively noble to out no one's actions or thoughts but his own and assess no one's process but his. As Darling escorts you along the linear path following the final innings of Game 6, some of which he was not even in the ballpark to experience, the rain-out of the originally scheduled game 7, the moments leading up to the start time and in game analysis, be prepared to take well timed and nostalgic detours to detail some of the unique personalities that surrounded him.

Regrets, he's had a few. Enough to write a book about. Ron Darling, a member of that championship Mets team and the excellent broadcast team that covers the present-day squad, joins the bandwagon of books this year celebrating the 30th anniversary of the 1986 season and last year's mostly satisfying success. Unlike the 1969 Mets, who came out of nowhere to shock the baseball world by winning the Series, the '86 model excelled from the beginning, having contended for a couple of years. They were expected to win; anything else would have been a disappointment, especially after all the puffing and preening they had done during the regular season. That they had a few close calls --- a 16-inning playoff win against the Houston Astros for the pennant, the dramatic Game Six deliverance from the jaws of death against the Red Sox --- only adds to the legend. Darling, who enjoyed perhaps the best season of his 13-year career in 1986 (15 wins, a low earned-run average, a career-high in strikeouts), is extremely hard on himself as he recalls his "failure" during the finale, glossing over his earlier good work, losing the second game, 1-0, on an infield error and winning Game Four, 6-2, with another strong showing. But sports is a "what have you done for me lately" business, and Darling didn't do much in that seventh game, allowing three runs in less than four innings, including two home runs. The Mets came back to win, 8-5, and happiness embraced the Big Apple. For the most part. Is being your own harshest critic the mien of the professional?

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