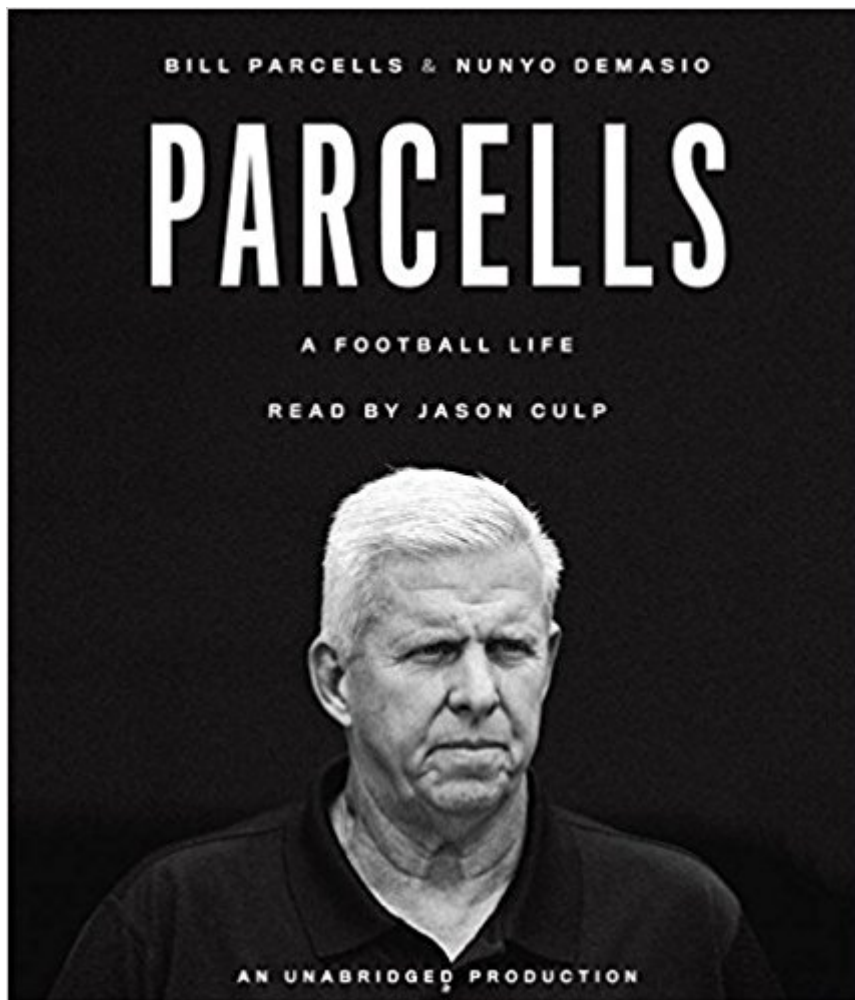


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Parcells: A Football Life



Synopsis

Bill Parcells may be the most iconic football coach of our time. During his decades-long tenure as an NFL coach, he turned failing franchises into contenders. He led the ailing New York Giants to two Super Bowl victories, turned the New England Patriots into an NFL powerhouse, reinvigorated the New York Jets, brought the Dallas Cowboys back to life, and was most recently enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Taking readers behind the scenes with one of the most influential and fascinating coaches the NFL has ever known, PARCELLS will take a look back at this coach's long, storied and influential career, offer a nuanced portrayal of the complex man behind the coach, and examine the inner workings of the NFL.

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Customer Reviews

"One thing you want with books like this is locker-room dish, and enough scenes are tantamount to the crazy stuff you see in a classic football insider's account like Roy Blount Jr.'s Three Bricks Shy of a Load." — Boston Globe
"Anyone who appreciates NFL history, plus any longtime fans of the Giants, Patriots, Jets, Cowboys, and Dolphins, is going to want to run out to your local bookstore to buy Parcells." — Ben Volin, Boston Globe
"Parcells: A Football Life, written with Nunyo Demasio, is well worth it, especially the part that deals with his time with the Patriots, a behind-the-curtains look we so seldom get." — Bill Reynolds, Providence Journal
"For those who adore the former coach of the Giants, the Jets, the Cowboys and the Patriots, this is the tome for you." — Star Ledger
"Impossible to resist" — Newsday

BILL PARCELLS is a Hall of Fame football coach living in southern Florida. NUNYO DEMASIO is a reporter and feature writer who has written for the New York Daily News, The New York Times, Washington Post, Seattle Times, Sports Illustrated, and ESPN: The Magazine.

Amazing biography, well written. The best part, to me, was to see this man's inflection point: There was a clear moment that Bill understood unequivocally that he had to win to keep his job, his career. The entire book could be divided into before and after that moment. Seeing how he changed his behavior accordingly was fascinating and instructive. The latter half of his career was spellbinding because of his inability to resist the siren call of coaching, and the details of his complicated relationship with his family. This book is amongst my favorite football biographies, along with Saban and The Education of a Coach. Interestingly, all three men have ties to one another.

I just finished reading: Parcells A Football Life. The author, Nunyo Demasio, through his meticulous research and vast diction effectively paints a detailed portrait of a football immortal. Parcells is a man with great intestinal fortitude, endurance, and unmatched authentic football credibility. Paradoxically, Parcells's neglect of his wife and daughters's emotional needs combined with his curt disposition may cause many readers to have contempt for him. The pendulum of judgment swings back to the positive when learning of his noble leadership traits: honesty, loyalty, intelligence, preparedness, motivator, strategist etc... The Kindle version's touch word/definition feature enhanced my reading capacity. Using this feature allowed me to have a full understanding of Demasio's thoughtful word choice, which provided me with a more comprehensive understanding of his syntax. This along with his painstaking hunt for abstract facts that are insignificant on their own, but have great depth of meaning when strung together, left me impressed not only with the subject matter, but also with his top-shelf writing. Because of the author's use of detailed dialogue, description of voice inflection, body language, and facial expressions, along with the personality traits of the characters, I felt that I was observing many of the events first hand. The author seamlessly stitched together various bodies of information where they intersected at a common thread. Perhaps no better example was his connection of Parcells's brother Don's passing to the Army/Navy football game, John F. Kennedy, Al Michaels, Roy Williams, God, and the #31. Adding to the piece's entertainment value was the sprinkling of humor throughout the chronological text. There were moments of great levity, like the time Parcells went

around the locker room pushing his Texas Tech players and asking, “are you ready?” When Parcels got to a player named Billy Bothwell, the player got up and pushed Parcels back with a hard shove, causing him to tumble to the floor. Future NFL head coach Romeo Crennel, while standing close by, said: “I think he’s ready, coach.” The final stage of contract negotiations between Parcels, The Atlanta Falcons, and the Miami Dolphins at Parcels’s home provided both high comedy as well as insight into how NFL power brokers make their most important financial decisions. The use of football history mini-lessons gave context to several interrelationships present in the football community. Some of the connections made involving college football, the NFL, and the career paths of many average and hall of fame players and coaches prove to be quite intriguing. Whether you like or dislike Parcels personally this is a must read for anyone interested in learning what it takes for players, coaches, executives, and owners to achieve success in the ultra competitive NFL. An investment of time spent by any young writer for the purpose of analyzing the scribe’s labor will also pay meaningful future dividends. I Highly Recommend “Parcels: A Football Life!”

This is a biography of a recent hall of fame inductee Bill Parcels, whose legendary work at the Giants, the Patriots, the Jets, and the Cowboys keep being discussed, and who has trained many first-rate coaches including Bill Belichick, Tom Coughlin, and Sean Payton. The book is very well researched through seemingly countless hours of interviews with the coaches, players, friends, owners, the family, and Parcels himself, and digs deeply into the minds of Parcels. The book is very long and requires some patience on the reader’s part. For example, those who have the strongest interest in the Parcels period of the Giants may find the book a bit boring toward the end where his involvement with The Dolphins is extensively described. Given the number of years he coached for colleges and pros, the number of people that show up in the book is gigantic. It was sometimes difficult for me to recall where I had seen the name before in the book. I trust that the printed version of the book has an index that helps the reader to navigate through the book with the names, but the version I bought was an e-book, and so I found it a bit confusing on my end. Overall, this was very good entertainment.

I lived through Parcels’ tumultuous tenure as Patriots head coach and had very mixed feelings about him. I bought the book after listening to a very contrite Parcels talk about the book and his career on sports talk station WEEI in Boston. I couldn’t put the book down. It’s amazing to discover

the many people with whom his career has intersected - not just Belichick, Jerry Jones and Lawrence Taylor, but Steve Sloan, Rex Dockery, Bob Knight, Todd Bowles and Ken Hatfield. Parcells is brutally honest about his shortcomings as a father, his regrets about how it ended badly with the Patriots and his relationship with Belichick. This book is Parcells at his best. I now see him as an incredibly complex guy who had a remarkably positive influence on many people in the game. And his relationships with Curtis Martin, who considers him his father figure, and Taylor speak volumes about the human side of Parcells.

Well...it was nice to read a biography about Bill. But that is exactly what it is. Putting Bill as a co-author is a joke. There were few first person statements in the book, from a man with a larger than life personality it left me disappointed in the overall product.

Want to know what really goes on inside the NFL? Curious about how decisions are made? Fascinated why some teams seem to be their own worst enemies? Read this. You don't have to be a Parcells lover, or a Patriots, Giants, Jets, or Dolphins fan to get fascinating insight into why and how things are done in one of the world's most successful businesses. You'll also get a good look at what it takes to succeed as a professional football coach and player. Well worth your money and time to read this gem.

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