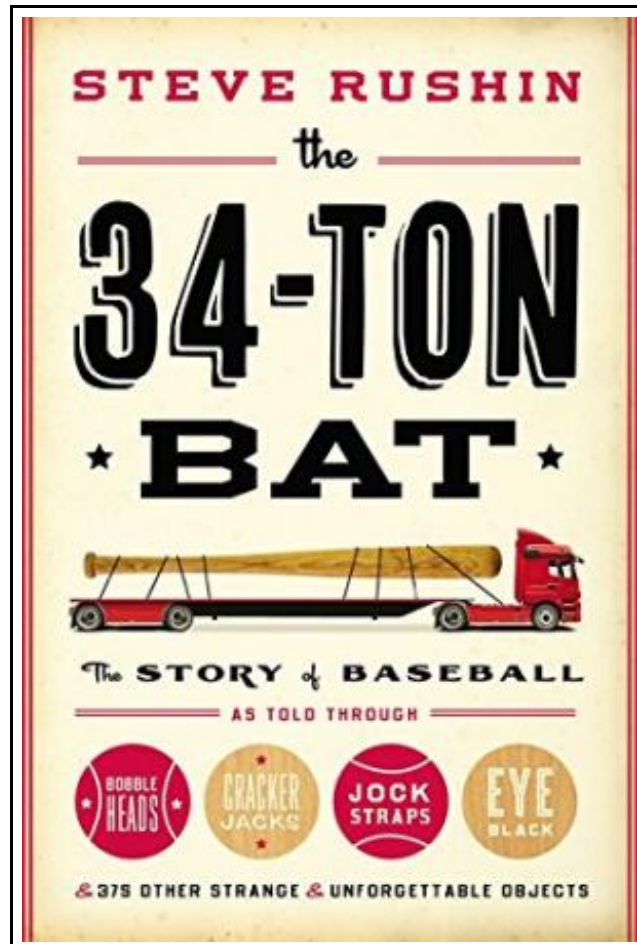


## The 34-Ton Bat: The Story of Baseball as Told Through Bobbleheads, Cracker Jacks



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*(Stefan Von)*

## THE 34-TON BAT: THE STORY OF BASEBALL AS TOLD THROUGH BOBBLEHEADS, CRACKER JACKS



Little, Brown. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. No sport embraces its wild history quite like baseball, especially in oddball memorabilia, unwelcome equipment, and eccentric characters. Steve Rushin, longtime Sports Illustrated writer and the 2005 National Sportswriter of the Year, here tells the real, unvarnished story of baseball through giant bats, huge balls, peanuts and Cracker Jack, eye black, pipe organs, backed-up toilets, and more, each with a backstory you have to read to believe. "Do not drink liquids as you read this book, because you will spew them in hilarity. I kid you not. This is a dangerously funny book, made brilliant by the fact it is also the genuine history of baseball, true as ash. Above all, it is Steve Rushin's love letter to the Great American Gameperfumed with the odor of hot dogs (the ones he cooked as a kid employee at the 'Met' in Minneapolis), glove oil, Frosty Malts, and exotic things like splattered grapefruits dropped from the Washington Monument. This is Rushin throwing from the outfield to the plate, at his wordsmith best. I'm serious about the laughter. My stomach feels like it's been hit by that 68,000-pound bat."Rick Telander"Jimmy and Ralph 'Buzz' Boyle are author Rushin's grandfather and great uncle, respectively. Buzz played three seasons with the Brooklyn Dodgers, while Jimmy got into one game for one inning for the New York Giants. When Rushin, the 2005 National Sportswriter of the Year, inherited Jimmy's glove, a passionate and eclectic exploration of baseball ephemera was launched. Rushin approaches his passion with a mischievous gleam in his eye, a point of view captured perfectly in this anecdote-filled account of the sport's odd corners. He covers the evolution of the baseball glove, from a less-than-manly novelty in the game's earliest days to its current status as...



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