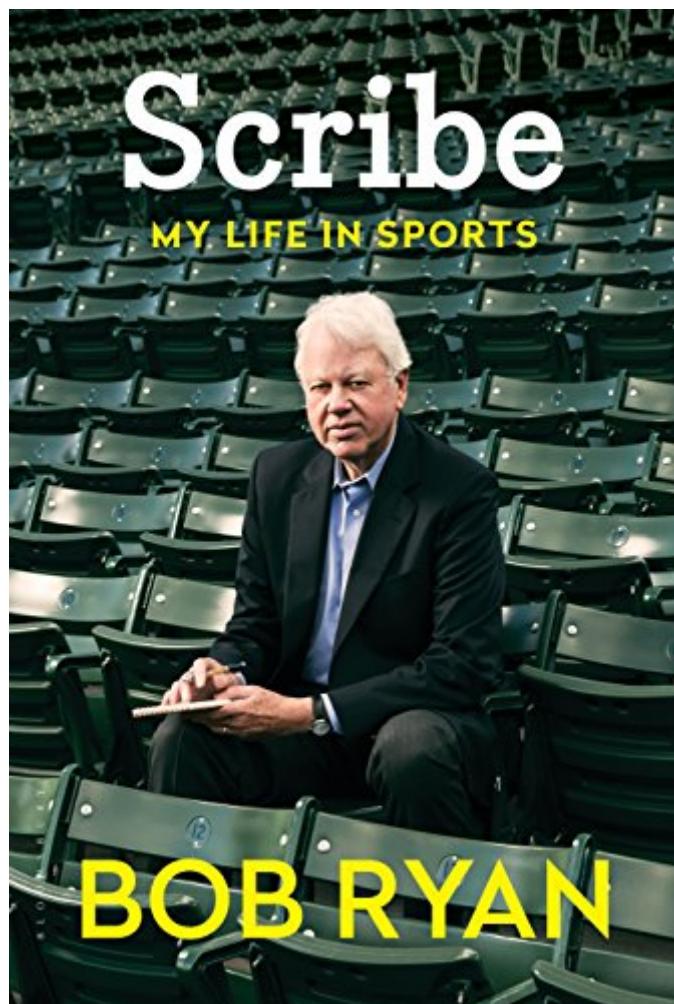


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# Scribe: My Life In Sports



## **Synopsis**

Ever since he joined the sports department of the Boston Globe in 1968, sports enthusiasts have been blessed with the writing and reporting of Bob Ryan. Tony Kornheiser calls him the "quintessential American sportswriter." • For the past twenty-five years, he has also been a regular on various ESPN shows, especially *The Sports Reporters*, spreading his knowledge and enthusiasm for sports of all kinds. Born in 1946 in Trenton, New Jersey, Ryan cut his teeth going with his father to the Polo Grounds and Connie Mack Stadium, and to college basketball games at the Palestra in Philadelphia when it was the epicenter of the college game. As a young man, he became sports editor of his high school paper-and at age twenty-three, a year into his Boston Globe experience, he was handed the Boston Celtics beat as the Bill Russell era ended and the Dave Cowens one began. His all-star career was launched. Ever since, his insight as a reporter and skills as a writer have been matched by an ability to connect with people-players, management, the reading public-probably because, at heart, he has always been as much a fan as a reporter. More than anything, *Scribe* reveals the people behind the stories, as only Bob Ryan can, from the NBA to eleven Olympics to his surprising favorite sport to cover-golf-and much more. It is sure to be one of the most talked-about sports books of 2014, by one of the sports world's most admired journalists.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Anyone who is a Boston Sport's Fan, knows of Bob Ryan. This is the story of his life as a sport's writer. It is not an up close and personal report of his life, but enough of his life is filtered through the lens so that you get a measure of the man. Bob was born in Trenton, NJ, in 1946. His first loves were sports and music. He grew up during the late 50's and 60's when rock'n'roll was king. He started reading all about sports the local papers and then extended to any book he could get a hold of. He went to a private school as a young man. His mother worked at Lawrenceville, and that was his entree. From there he went to Boston College, and in 1968 he joined the sports department of the Boston Globe. Bob Ryan learned about sports from his father, when they went to the Polo Grounds and Connie Mack Stadium, and to college basketball games at the Palestra in Philadelphia. He became sports editor of his high school paper, and at age twenty-three, a year into his Boston Globe experience, he got the Boston Celtics as his own. This was the era of Dave Cowens, and Bob Ryan considered him one of the best players. Bob Ryan had great insight as a reporter and his skills as a writer were superb. He is also a people person, and he has the ability to connect with players, management, and his readers. From the Celtics, Bob Ryan moved to the Red Sox when Peter Gammons left the Globe to go to ESPN. Much of the book takes up his Celtic and Red Sox years, but he also loved every sport, hockey, football, and golf. He shares some stories of each sport, but the most relevant are the Celtics and Red Sox. He discusses the players, the out of town stories, the behind the scenes look at each sport. The personalities of the players, coaches, managers and owners all come into play. The most interesting of the stories are his take of the players and the games. He has a scorecard for every baseball game he attended, so he can give you a detailed description of what went down in each game in the past 45 years. In between times, Bob went to ESPN, but his love of the written word brought him back to the Globe. You can still see him occasionally on ESPN, and he is well thought of, and respected by his contemporaries and colleagues in the sport's world. He married early in his college years, and he and his wife, Elaine have three children. He retired in 2012, but he still keeps very active writing and appearing on the occasional sport's show. I have no doubt that an evening spent with Bob Ryan talking sports would be the highlight of anyone's life. Recommended. prisrob10-18-14

Bob Ryan has always seemed to me to be a sports fan first and foremost. I think that's why I have

always liked him. This book brings that out more than anything. He is a sports fan who happens to be a very good writer of sports. In this book he tells how and why he became a sports fan. Then goes into the stories of his life covering the various sports in Boston and throughout the world. He did cover the Celtics for the better part of his career at The Globe so expect a lot about the Celtics. He also has a very good chapter on the 1992 Olympic basketball team and how the mens game evolved after that. His love of sports is well exposed throughout the book. At the end it left you wanting to hear more from him. Maybe someday he will do another book and expound even more on some of his wealth of knowledge.

When I heard that Ryan was writing a book, I made a note to myself to look for it when released. Unfortunately, this book fell way short of the mark. Given all of the years that Ryan has spent covering sports at the highest levels, I expected far more. There were too many recitations of game stories, that is summarizations of what occurred during games that oftentimes occurred decades ago. The book would have been far better if there were more anecdotes regarding what was going on behind the scenes, like when a premier athlete asked Ryan for help with a letter of retirement. That was a great story, but there too few like it to justify time lost reading this book

"Scribe" sits comfortably along side Ryan's other books, especially "The Four Seasons", where he reflects on the history of each of Boston's professional teams and provides a detailed summary of a selected season. This latest work is more personal and biographical but still marked by Ryan's wit and self deprecation. Yes, it is Beantown/Celtics biased, but with such the rich Celtics history & the number of championships covered by Ryan, that's not an issue. To balance that, Ryan's insights of the Olympics he covered are fascinating. A funny and well written account of the sports writer's life. One big error: as any Bruins fan will tell you, Cam Neely did his knee against Ulf Samuelsson of the Penguins in 1991, not the New York Rangers. Bob does admit his knowledge of hockey is limited. There's the empirical evidence!

The content of the book is great - my wife loved it. However, when I gave it to her for her birthday I was surprised and disappointed to find that there was water damage over the back pages and also the back cover. I guess I should have inspected it when I first received it but did not think there would be an issue and so simply put it into a gift bag and it sat there waiting for her birthday. I will not make the same mistake again.

If you just hardcore LOVE Bob Ryan this is for you. For me there was a bit too much play-by-play and not nearly enough back-channel stuff. I'm not talking gossip but Ryan has been around some of the greatest athletes and I would have loved to get his take. If you're looking for a light read this is for you. If you want Ryan to roll up his sleeves and offer some substance wait until this hits the bargain bin -- or just pass on it.

If you are between the ages of 55 and 85 and you've lived between Boston and Philadelphia and you love sports and in particular, the Celtics, you might read this book in one sitting. It is well written and full of great stories about an era gone by. I felt myself reliving the events as they were told by Mr. Ryan. Unlike other books of the genre, Bob Ryan is never the center of the story. He is a fan like us and always amazed that he gets paid for it. The reader is sure he would do it for nothing. SCRIBE is completely enjoyable but the audience is focused.

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