

yale

university

press

new haven

and

london

susan

jacoby

why

baseball

matters

"Why X Matters" and the yX logo are registered trademarks of Yale University.

> Copyright © 2018 by Susan Jacoby.

All rights reserved. This book may not

> be reproduced, in whole or in part, including

illustrations, in any form (beyond that copying permitted

by Sections 107 and 108 of the U.S.

Copyright Law and except by reviewers for the public press),

without written permission from the publishers. Published with assistance from the Mary Cady Tew Memorial Fund.

Yale University Press books may be purchased in quantity for educational, business, or promotional use. For information, please e-mail sales.press@yale.edu (U.S. office) or

Set in Times Roman and Adobe Garamond types by Integrated Publishing Solutions.

Printed in the United States of America.

sales@yaleup.co.uk (U.K. office).

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017952550 ISBN 978-0-300-22427-6 (hardcover : alk. paper)

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British

Library.

This paper meets the requirements of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992 (Permanence of Paper).

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

also by susan jacoby

Strange Gods: A Secular History of Conversion
The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American
Freethought

Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age

Alger Hiss and the Battle for History

The Age of American Unreason

Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism

Half-Jew: A Daughter's Search for Her Family's Buried Past

Wild Justice: The Evolution of Revenge

The Possible She

Inside Soviet Schools

Moscow Conversations

This page intentionally left blank

In memory of my grandparents James L. Broderick and Min Broderick It seems to me that through baseball I was put in touch with a more humane and tender brand of patriotism, lyrical rather than martial or righteous in spirit, and without the reek of saintly zeal, a patriotism that could not so easily be sloganized, or contained in a high-sounding formula to which you had to pledge something vague but all-encompassing called your "allegiance."

—Philip Roth, "My Baseball Years"