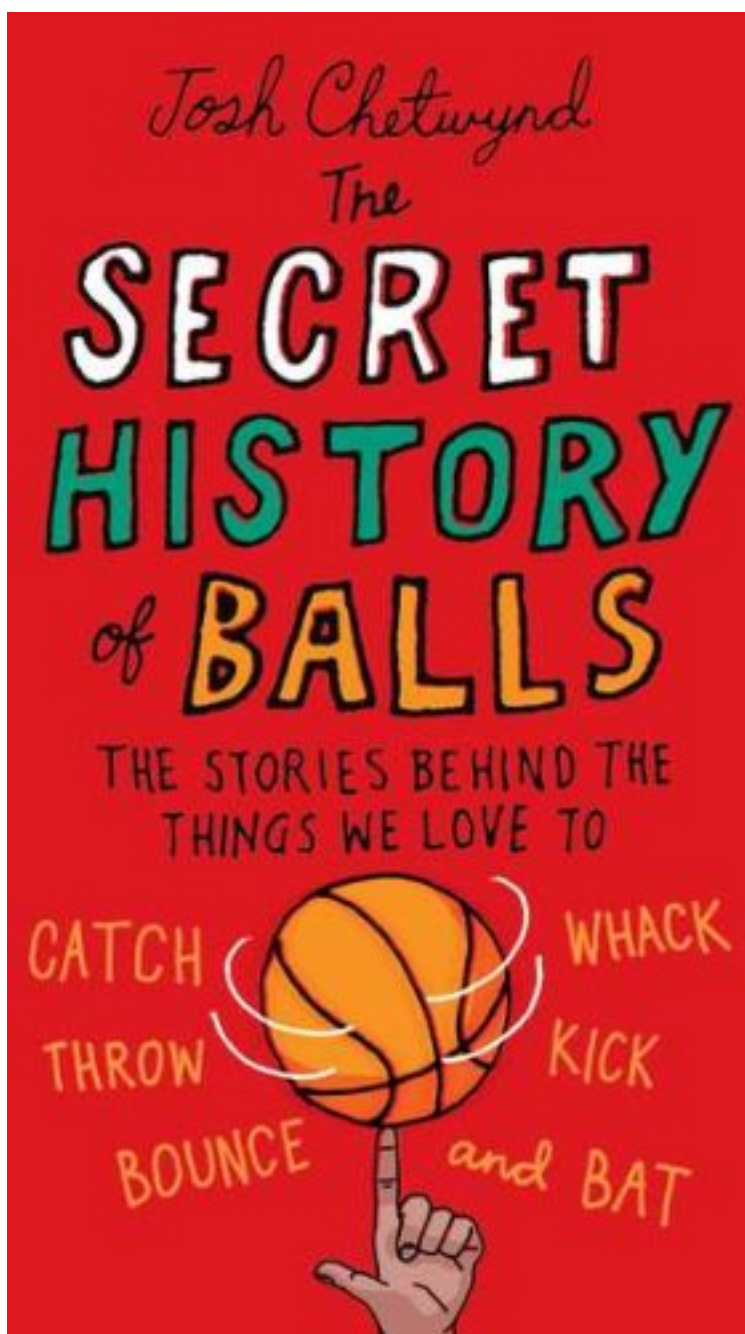


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Any sports fan has to have this interesting book
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This is an easy-reading but encyclopedic book. Anyone interested in sports needs to have this on the bookshelf. Great tidbits of information, surprising facts. Even the sports enthusiast's partner will have fun reading this book and adding some knowledge about balls to sporty conversations! Great stocking stuffer for Christmas. A must-have read.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Hard to put down
By Michael
I very much enjoyed this book. *Secret History of Balls* has more than just balls -- the balls are just a jumping off point for a tour of everything from 18th-century nobles to 1930s stick ball to the invention of plastic. The writing style is funny, clear and easy to follow, and it's very addictive reading -- much recommended.

You may fancy yourself a sports fan, but chances are you don't know: A fish eyeball was used as the center of some nineteenth-century baseballs. The race to make better billiard balls led to the invention of plastics. The Nerf ball was originally created to be part of a board game featuring cavemen. Balls are the unsung heroes of sports. They are smacked, flung, dribbled, crushed, thrown, and kicked. They're usually only the subject of scrutiny when something goes wrong: a tear, the application of an illegal foreign substance, or a dent from overuse. Nevertheless, if you're watching nearly any major sporting event from around the world, you're likely following the ball wondering where it will go next... *The Secret History of Balls* mines the stories and lore of sports and recreation to offer insight into 60 balls--whether they're hollow, solid, full of air, or stuffed with twine or made of leather, metal, rubber, plastic, or polyurethane--that give us joy on playing fields and in every arena from backyards to stadiums around the globe.

"Essential Trivia" --ESPN The Magazine "[Chetwynd] shows us how the evolution of the ball has had a profound influence not only on each athletic activity we play but on much larger issues such as technology, language and culture." --The Denver Post
"Anyone with an interest in sports or game development and history will thoroughly enjoy bouncing through these offerings." --New York Journal of Books
"[A] little gem of a book ..." --The Wall Street Journal
Named one of the "Best Books of 2011" - National Public Radio
About the Author
Josh Chetwynd is a journalist, broadcaster, and author. He has served as a staff reporter for USA Today, the Hollywood Reporter, and U.S. News World Report, and his writing has also appeared in such publications as the Wall Street Journal, the Times (London), the Harvard Negotiation Law Journal, and Variety. As a broadcaster, he has worked for BBC Radio, among other outlets. In terms of his sports bona fides, he primarily earned them on the baseball diamond, where he played at the NCAA Division I college level for Northwestern University and had professional stints in both the United States for the Zanesville Greys in the independent Frontier League, and abroad for Sweden's Oskarshamn BK in Europe. He is the author of six books, four of them about sports. His 2011 effort, *The Secret History of Balls: The Stories Behind the Things We Love to Catch, Whack, Throw, Kick, Bounce, and Bat*, was named an NPR best book that year. He lives in Denver, Colorado, with his wife and two children.