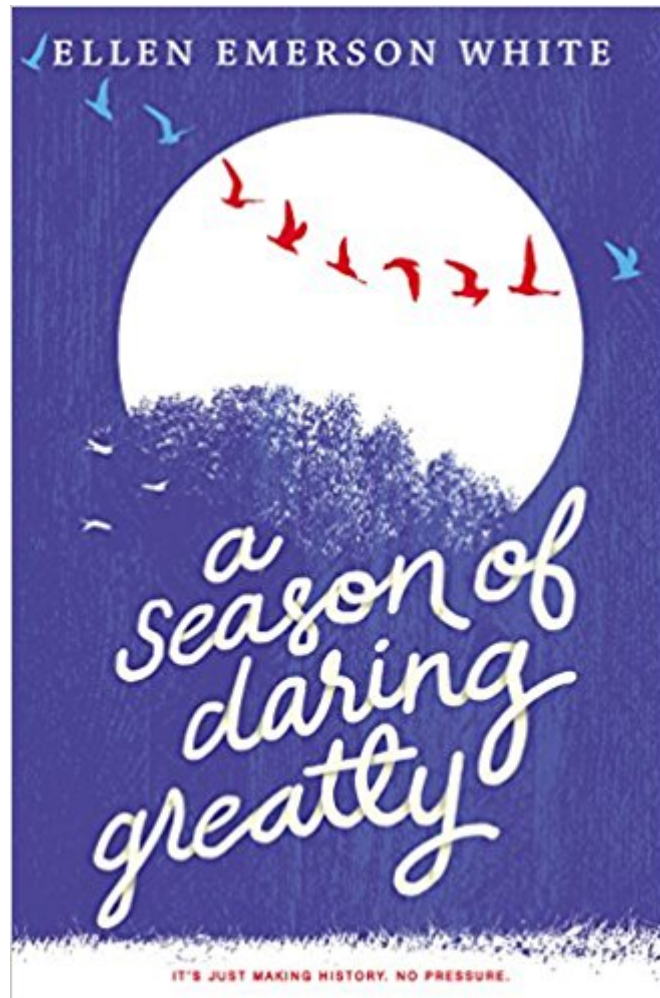




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# A Season Of Daring Greatly



## Synopsis

Eighteen-year-old Jill Cafferty just made history. Her high school's star pitcher, she is now the first woman drafted by a major league baseball team. Only days after her high school graduation, she'll join the Pittsburgh Pirates' Class A Short Season team . . . but not everyone is happy to have her there. On top of the pressure heaped on every pitcher, Jill must deal with defying conventions and living up to impossible expectations, all while living away from home for the first time. She'll go head-to-head against those who are determined to keep baseball an all-male sport. Despite the reassurance of coaches and managers alike, a few of her teammates are giving her trouble. The media presence following her at each game is inescapable. And to top it all off, Jill is struggling with the responsibilities of being a national hero and a role model for young women everywhere. How can she be a role model when she's not even sure she made the right choice for herself? Didn't baseball used to be fun? This literary and engrossing story of a young woman trying to mark out a place for herself in a male-dominated world will captivate fans of *Friday Night Lights*, *The Art of Fielding*, John Corey Whaley, and Laurie Halse Anderson.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books (February 14, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062463217

ISBN-13: 978-0062463210

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #963,777 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #444 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #2263 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Girls & Women

## Customer Reviews

• Jill Cafferty...walks a fine line between fitting in and asserting her own personality. ...the third-person narration allows readers to hear her silent inner voice, often ironic or humorous...Go girl. • (Kirkus) • The pleasure of reading this novel comes from the steady, realistic portrayal of Jill's experience as a rookie and as a young woman breaking into a man's sports. An

ensemble of well-drawn, interesting characters revolves around Jill...Readers will hope for sequels to this unusual and engaging novel. • (Booklist) • Jill navigates the tricky waters of displaying her expertise in a male-dominated sport. • Jill is a strong, centered, and witty character, and it's refreshing to read her smart comebacks to blatant sexism. • a good candidate for collections needing more positive depictions of characters who advocate against gender bias. • (School Library Journal) • White imbues Jill with a fully credible mix of steely resolve, stealthy sense of humor, carefully repressed rage against her naysayers • players in the pipeline wonder when women will get their chance; now these readers can ponder whether the first pro experience will be a lot like this. • (Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (starred review)) • Jill's desire to do her job without being stereotyped or bullied will resonate with readers in this unique and engaging novel. Recommend this to readers looking for stories about overcoming obstacles, like gender bias, as well as anyone who has an interest in baseball. • (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) • White's third-person limited narrative, told from Jill's perspective, pulls the reader into her story. ...there's plenty of action, and fans of the game will enjoy following Jill through early missteps toward a surer sense of herself and her skills. • (Horn Book Magazine)

I really enjoyed this story of a young woman becoming the first woman drafted into Major League Baseball. Jill is a athlete. She plays baseball and basketball and is remarkably good at both. Her heart is with baseball though. At the end of her senior year, she was drafted into the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. She has a scholarship to Stanford in her back pocket, but when she is drafted in the Third Round, that tips the balance to giving professional baseball a try. Jill is a great pitcher but now she will finally be competing with people with as much talent as she has. She also has to be a trailblazer and role model. She knows it won't be easy. She knows she'll miss her family and her family dog Maggie. Her family is still grieving the loss of her father who died on deployment with the National Guard about four years before this story begins. She has a lot of support from her brother and her mother and her best friends Lauren and Greg. She needs to lean on all of them when times get tough. Jill has to deal with leaving home, living with a host family, interacting with teammates who aren't all excited about having a woman for a teammate. She has to deal with massive amounts of media attention. She is thoughtful and articulate but the constant media attention is hard to deal with. She tries hard to be bland but her quirky humor does come out once in a while. I enjoyed her relationship with her catcher who knows he's a great catcher but also knows he won't go much farther in baseball because of his lack of hitting. She is on the same team as another one of the recent draft picks that she met during all the signing hoopla and he becomes a good friend. She

also makes friends with the Japanese pitcher who is just learning English. Her fluent Spanish also makes friends among the Spanish-speaking players. Even though she makes lots of friends, there are lots of team members including the number one draft pick who is constantly belittling her. Fans of sports stories will enjoy this entertaining story with a great main character.

I love baseball--seriously love it. It was so good to read a book that really shows what minor league ball is like. From the details of bus travel to the sounds of the stadium, White gets it. But this is more than a baseball book. It's a good story, above all else. As the book opens, we are introduced to Jill Cafferty, a high school senior eligible for the MLB draft. She's a pitcher, far better than the players around her. Scouts have been watching her for years. Rather than have a huge, overblown ego about the attention, Jill is aware of just how sensitive everything is. But even she is surprised when she gets drafted. White tells a thoroughly compelling story about being the one that is first through the door, about the pressure and hard work of being that woman. I really want to read more about Jill!

I had no idea that Ellen Emerson White had a new book come out this year. She's one of my forever-favorite authors, and has been since *The President's Daughter* came out and my mom bought it for me back in 1984. The *President's Daughter* series is note-perfect, and when the author's last part of that, *Long May She Reign*, came out in 2007, well - I also didn't know that had come out, and found out a year later. I ordered a copy and read it in one fell swoop, staying up until 3AM. Now, ten year later, this is the first YA/New Adult novel Ellen Emerson White has come out with. (She's written a whole bunch of little kid books, and a couple of really solid young readers books in a historical series, but this is the only one that hearkens back to the YA genre in that time.) And my god, it was worth the wait. It tells the story of Jill, an 18 year old who just graduated high school, who gets drafted by a major league baseball team. She's the first woman who has ever achieved that and, as Ms. White's best works all do, the book explores the profoundly complex experience of a woman treading new ground. Jill is a kid, though - 18 is so young! - and the book shows that expertly, allowing the character to be smart, and sharp, and mature, but still a kid. Also, I know nearly nothing about baseball, and at NO POINT did this book lag or bore me even for a SECOND, even during a detailed game description. The author is just that damn good. I'm not great at overall book reviews - I don't do a good job of dissecting the plot or whatever - but my GOD, I loved this book. The characters, as per usual in Ellen Emerson White's books, just come off the page right towards you. You feel like you know them, and you feel like you want to know them.

There's a certain spark that shines through the author's writing - man, I don't know, it's - okay. She has a penchant for writing smart women who are a little prickly. She creates ridiculously dynamic side characters. She excels at showing the flaws of a human being while still making you like them. You could say there is a certain pattern to how she writes, and maybe there is - Meg in the President's Daughter Series, Rebecca in the Echo Company series, Susan in the Friends for Life series. They are all young women who are smart, sharp, and funny, who are thrust into tough arenas, and who have to work against their own selves as well as the world around them. But they aren't interchangeable. It's not rote. I could recognize traits in Jill from Ellen's other characters, but that's all it was - glimpses of other strong young women. And I don't - hmm, I just don't think the characters are enough alike to even be friends, in some alternate universe. They'd been too on guard, too much aware of needing to be sharp and on. But I love them all. I wondered, very much, if I could like Jill anywhere near as much as I liked Meg from the President's Daughter series, but Ellen wrote her so well, so real, and so relatable that - yes, I liked her. I liked her so, so much. This was a fantastic read. I'm SO happy to have a new book by Ellen Emerson White to add to my collection.

I've been waiting to get my hands on this one ever since I heard about it and the fact that the author was a huge Red Sox fan. I absolutely loved A SEASON OF DARING GREATLY. More than that, it made my heart so happy. It's obvious that White is a baseball expert, and everything in the novel was so realistic (and correctly phrased!) that it made me love the story that much more. Jill was a great character, and White ended the story perfectly. If you love books and baseball like me, this one is tailor made for you!

I loved this book so much! I can't wait to read it again.

I got it this morning (preordered on Kindle) and can't put it down. Love her books!

I don't speak sports ball and I love this book. Baseball fans will be able to read more into the specifics; I just love the characters, the pacing, the surprises and the plot. I highly recommend this book to baseball fans, feminists, young girls, senior citizens, mothers, fathers, sons and people.

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