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He is that rare American icon who has never been captured in a biography worthy of him. Now, at last, here is the superbly researched, spellbindingly told story of athlete, showman, philosopher, and boundary breaker Leroy Satchel Paige. Through dogged research and extensive interviews, award-winning author and journalist Larry Tye has tracked down the truth about this majestic and enigmatic pitcher. Here is the stirring account of the child born to a poor Alabama washerwoman, the boy who earned his nickname from his enterprising work as a railroad porter, and the young man who took up baseball on the streets and in reform school before becoming the superstar hurler of the Negro Leagues. In unprecedented detail, Tye reveals how Paige, hurt and angry when Jackie Robinson beat him in breaking the Major's color barrier, emerged at the improbable age of forty-two to help propel the Cleveland Indians to the World Series. (Age is a case of mind over matter, he said. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.) Rewriting our history of baseball's integration with Paige in the starring role and separating truth from legend, Satchel is a story as large as this larger-than-life man.

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