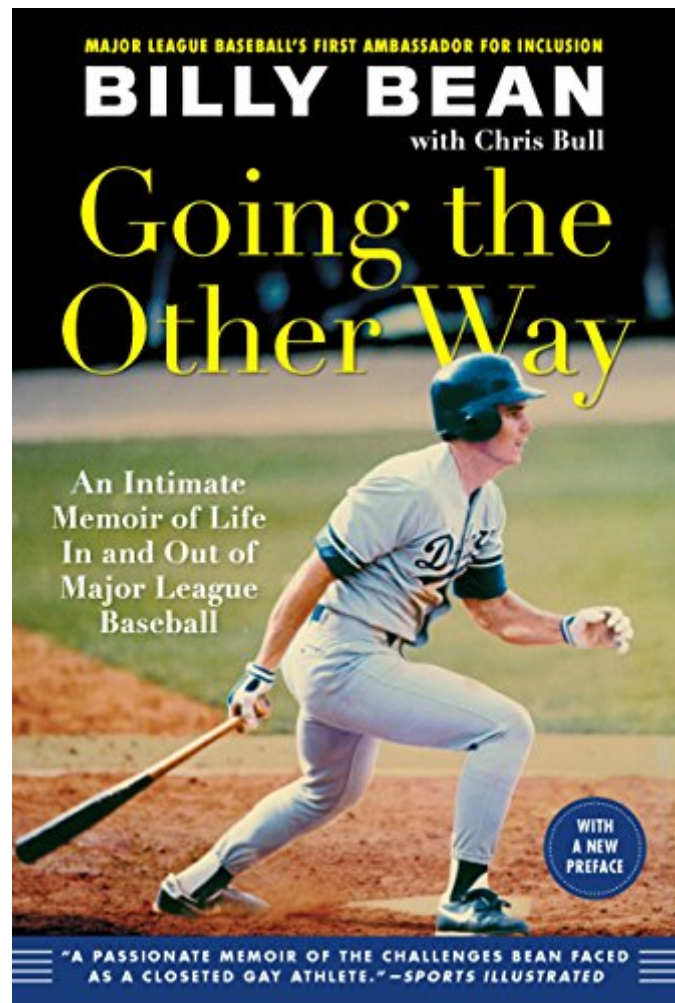




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# Going The Other Way: An Intimate Memoir Of Life In And Out Of Major League Baseball



## Synopsis

From major league baseball's only openly gay former player and now its first-ever Ambassador for Inclusion to the intimate chronicle of a man who, in the prime of his career, had to make a terrible choice between his love of the game and the love of his life. More than ten years after its original publication, *Going the Other Way* remains deeply moving, and more timely than ever. By virtue of a relentless work ethic, exceptional multi-sport talent, and a quick left-handed swing, Billy Bean made it to the majors, where he played from 1987 to 1995 as an outfielder for the Detroit Tigers, Los Angeles Dodgers, and San Diego Padres. But as a gay man in the brutally anti-gay world of baseball, closeted to teammates and family, Bean found himself unable to reconcile two worlds that he felt to be mutually exclusive. At the young age of 31, in the prime of his career, even as he solidified his role as a major-league utility player, Bean walked away from the game that was both his calling and his livelihood. At once heartbreaking and farcical, ruminative and uncensored, this unprecedented memoir points the way toward a more perfect game, one in which all players can pursue their athletic dreams free of prejudice and discrimination.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Billy Bean from his earliest days faced a life of challenges, and despite his natural sporting prowess and unconditional willingness to try and please others his sexual preference remained a matter of personal worry until after his baseball playing career ended. It seems that some social perceptions, rather than laws, influence views of homosexuality, which is conveyed in this book on the grounds that being homosexual isn't a crime, yet some views assert that it is wrong regardless thus overruling law. Subsequently, discrimination is a stronger currency than the laws that supposedly protect the rights of citizens. Notwithstanding such social barriers Billy Bean stepped out of the shadows of prejudice, and he has provided an inspiring account of finding oneself. Sections of the public need to appreciate that whilst they have a right to comment on a baseball player's skills, which they pay to watch, they don't have a right to pass judgment on a person's sexual or political preferences. It is an insatiable appetite to know the most personal details of public figures, which is sometimes perpetuated by the media that denies privacy and hinders the right to personal choice. Choosing homosexuality is a matter of lawful personal preference and that's where public opinions should start and end. Billy Bean has bravely offered his story and we can all certainly learn a lot from his courage. Nicholas R.W. Henning - Australian Baseball Author

Back when I was a kid I went to a Jr. High school called Willard in Santa Ana on Ross Street. It was the first time I met Little Billy Bean, a smallish kid. We were taking roll call in P.E. and a seagull flew over head and took a dump on the back of a guys jacket that was taking roll call. Billy laughed out loud and informed him that a bird just pelted him and the teachers assistant told Billy to quit clowning around but Billy was insistent as we all laughed and indeed finally got the guy to look. That's how I got to know Billy. I can tell all you readers this, he was always out going and sincere, we both graduated from Willard at the same time and then went to Santa Ana High School where I ran cross country, played tennis and Billy played baseball, Football, and other sports. One thing I want to tell readers and prospective buyers of this book. He's always been the real deal, a considerate individuals and always the type of person who you could count on and always had nice things to say. When I bought the book and started to read it, a lot of memories came flooding back to me, and as I progressed through the book I found myself unable to put it down. And when I finished I was almost in tears. This book ladies and gentleman is so open and candid I wanted to look away. You owe it to yourself to buy a copy and read it, if you are struggling with the same issues he did. And to my old High School Chum. This is the farthest home run I have ever seen you hit. Keep being yourself Beaneer!

Just finished Bean's book. I agree with others who've noted that this is indeed a story about finding one's true self and discovering your "center." It is also a story of resilience, as we see Billy emerge and re-emerge again and again from the body blows of his life's experiences. In this regard, the story is a very human experience story. Gay, straight, black, white, abled, disabled...Billy's story is the human condition--we are struggling to find our way in the face of unknown and known odds. In our society in which we consume and exploit every God-given resource and talent for fame and money, Billy's life story posits another reason for these gifts: They are tools for self-discovery. If along the way, the fame and money result; and if, along the way we help others find their true selves, so much the better, but our first responsibility should be to "know thyself" and you're going to be happy and make a lot of others happy as well. Thank you, Billy.

Just when you thought you didn't need to read another story about someone struggling with coming to terms with being gay.. along comes Billy Bean. While Mr. Bean's story is fairly "common" in the sense that many, many men have gone through similar things, they did not have the dubious honor of going through them all on the MLB scene. Imagine the average level of homophobic jerks on the playground in school and multiply it by 1000 and you may have the idea of what it must be like to go through life as a gay man in our completely heterosexualized sporting environment. I've read a number of articles written about and by Billy in the last few years, and was hoping that one day he would put it all into a book. Thankfully, he has. You can never get too much inspiration or encouragement, and even for those of us already out of the closet, it's an affirming story that reminds us why we did it in the first place. Highly recommended. (May also want to check out "Becoming a Man" - the autobiography of famed gay fiction/poetry writer Paul Monette.)

You'll learn about more than just the man when you read this book. He's very aware of his journey and how his life has been affected as a result. My college has him booked for a speech and reading this book added a lot to the anticipation for me.

I am not a baseball fan. I read a review of this book and there was just something that intrigued me about the story. I was prepared to be disappointed but, once I started, I couldn't stop turning the pages to see how all this was going to work out. Of course it was interesting to read Billy's take on the gay part of the story but, I think even with that removed from the picture, this is a moving story of a boy's dream and his struggles to achieve it. It certainly was a most pleasant sojourn into the

baseball business and the life of a ballplayer.

As eye-opening as it is interesting to read. Bean is such a nice guy, and this book is a prelude to all the good work he is currently doing as Major League Baseball's Ambassador for Inclusion.

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