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Advance praise for *Babe Ruth's Called Shot*:

"Sherman brings it all into sharp focus in a uniquely entertaining and greatly detailed way."—**John Feinstein**, author of the best-selling *A Good Walk Spoiled* and *Open*

"Sherman cuts through the hype and hyperbole to deliver the true history of the event, revealing not just what happened but how and why a single at-bat became the stuff of legend."—**Glenn Stout**, best-selling author of *Yankees Century* and *The Cubs* and series editor of *Best American Sports Writing*

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—**Jim Reisler**, author of *Babe Ruth: Launching the Legend*

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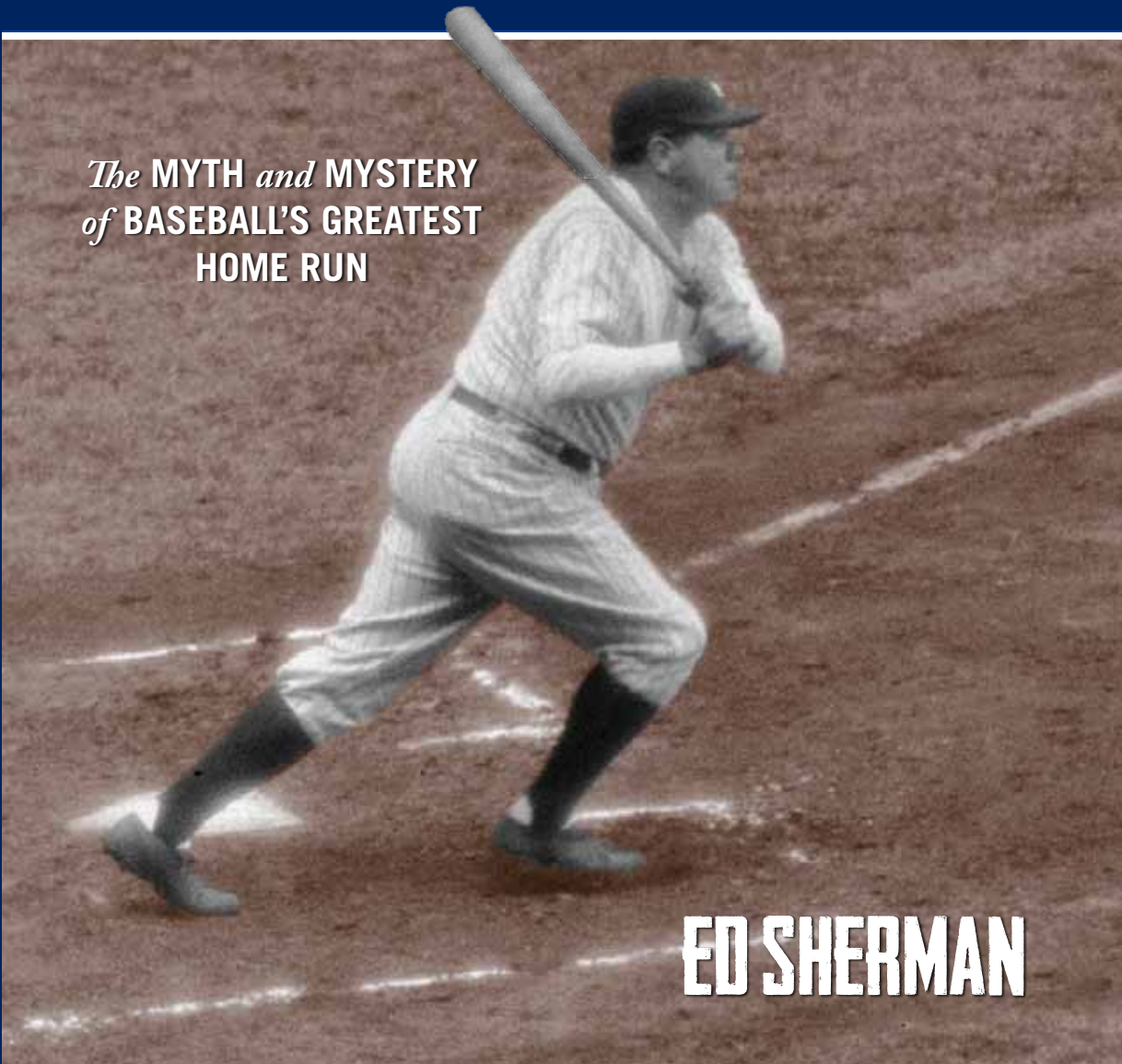


BABE RUTH'S CALLED SHOT

**IP**  
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# BABE RUTH'S CALLED SHOT

*The* MYTH and MYSTERY  
of BASEBALL'S GREATEST  
HOME RUN



ED SHERMAN

**The full story of the Sultan of Swat's  
most legendary homer and the most  
debated moment in baseball history**

Game Three of the 1932 World Series between the Cubs and Yankees stood locked at 4–4. Some 50,000 fans had gathered at Wrigley Field that bright October day, but above their roar Babe Ruth heard insults pouring from the Cubs' dugout. They called him a fat slob and other names not fit to print at the time. Agitated, the Bambino made a gesture, holding out two fingers—but what did it mean? In the on-deck circle, Lou Gehrig heard him call out: "I'm going to knock the next one down your goddamn throat." As Cubs pitcher Charlie Root wound up, the crowd roared in expectation. It was a change-up curve, low and away, but it came in flat and without bite. The ball compressed on impact with Ruth's bat, whizzed past the centerfield scoreboard, and began its long journey into history.

In an instant, the legend of the Called Shot was born. The debate about what Ruth actually did still divides fans and sports historians alike more than eighty years later. Deftly placing the homer in the social and economic contexts of the time, veteran sportswriter Ed Sherman gives us the first full-length, in-depth look at one of baseball's most celebrated, debated, and enduring moments—including the incredible stories of two handheld videos taken by fans and rediscovered decades later—and answers the question: Did Ruth really call his shot?