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# Double Play



## Synopsis

All-Star player Ben Zobrist (Tampa Bay Rays), considered one of the best all-around players in baseball, writes about the importance of his faith, life, and athletic career in *Double Play*. Written with his wife, Christian singer Julianna Zobrist, and Mike Yorkey, best-selling author of *Every Man's Battle* and *Linspired: The Remarkable Rise of Jeremy Lin*, the book gives fans a first look into the heart of an athlete whose talent and devotion to God, family, and baseball make him one of the most loveable figures in the Major League today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ben and Julianna Zobrist are standout talents, both using their gifts to glorify God. Ben is an All Star Major League baseball player and helped lead the Tampa Bay Rays to the World Series. Ben represented the United States in the World Baseball Classic and also leads Bible studies with his teammates. Julianna is a recognized Christian music artist whose music has affected the culture for Christ nationally. Julianna has performed on both the mainstream and Christian platforms and is actively involved in film and radio. Both Ben and Julianna speak about their faith at events nationwide. The Zobrists have two children and live in Nashville, Tennessee. Mike Yorkey has written and co-written more than seventy-five books, including the best seller *Every Man's Battle* (with Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker); *Believe: My Faith and the Tackle That Changed My Life* (with Eric LeGrand); *Playing With Purpose: Tim Tebow*; *Recovery of a Lifetime* (with Chris & Mike Reis); *Every Heart Restored* (with Fred Stoeker, Brenda Stoeker, Stephen Arterburn); *Growing Up Colt* (with Colt and Brad McCoy); *Playing With Purpose: NFL Quarterbacks* (Sam Bradford, Colt

McCoy, Tim Tebow), *Linspired: The Remarkable Rise of Jeremy Lin*; and *Playing with Purpose: Baseball*.

I met Ben Zobrist at the first conference I ever spoke at. I was in Nashville, at Community Bible Church, to speak on discernment, and someone introduced the two of us, telling me that Ben was a major league baseball player with the Tampa Bay Rays. I think he was manning the book table at the time. We talked for a few minutes and he told me that the next time the Rays came through Toronto, I should look him up. I did that, and it has become something of a tradition, so that once or twice a year I spend a few hours rooting against him, and then, after the game, we get together to spend some time catching up. It has been fun to watch his rise from a utility player and pinch hitter bouncing between the majors and minors, to a two-time All Star who is undoubtedly one of the most under-rated players in Major League Baseball. What I appreciate about Ben is that he seems unchanged by the fame and the fortune that have come his way through being a professional athlete. He is as down-to-earth today as the day I met him, still a small-town pastor's son unimpressed with his own success. He is a humble guy who sees his career as a unique opportunity to speak about Christ. As he has established himself as a great player, he has seen those opportunities grow. Ben and his wife Julianna have teamed up with Mike Yorkey to write "Double Play." This is really four different stories woven into one: Ben's long climb to the major leagues, Julianna's growth as a professional singer, their spiritual journey as individuals and then as a couple, and the tale of two people falling in love. Each of the stories is enjoyable and well-told. They open up their lives with honesty, yet without exhibitionism. You won't have to be a hopeless or sheepish romantic to enjoy reading about how they met and fell in love and (finally!) married. You won't have to be a baseball fan to enjoy reading about Ben's struggles and successes at the plate. A few aspects of the book merit special mention. Ben tells about his early career as a major leaguer where he struggled and found himself demoted. He went through an excruciating depression where he blamed God for his failure and just wanted to give up. Yet through this time, and with the help of his pastor Byron Yawn, he came to see that he had made baseball into his idol, the one thing in all the world he felt he needed to succeed at in order to experience joy and fulfillment. It was only when he was able to identify this as idolatry that he was able to recover his joy in the Lord. Julianna shares that as a young girl she was sexually assaulted. She describes how this affected her and how the weight of it has carried into her adult life and even into her marriage. She describes Ben's kindness and patience in helping her come

to terms with what happened to her. Those who have experienced similar grief will be helped, I think, by her openness and honesty. Finally, the Zobrists make no attempt in "Double Play" to hide or disguise who they are and what they believe. From the first page to the last, the book is soaked in their Christian faith. Both Ben and Julianna grew up in Christian homes as the children of pastors and both of them have a deep and mature commitment to the Lord. They go to a great church today and, despite the difficulties of a career that involves seven months a year of near-constant travel, they celebrate it and are committed to it. They get the gospel and are eager to share their faith with those who read their story. Sports memoirs vary greatly in their quality, and, though I admit my bias, I can say confidently that this is one of the good ones, up there with the likes of R.A.

Dickey's "Wherever I Wind Up." Zobrist is one of baseball's best players and one of the sport's men of true character. His story and Julianna's are worth knowing. If you like baseball or if you like memoir, you'll enjoy this book.

Undaunted, unforced, up-front and uplifting. One of my university professors suggested nobody should write a book on the family until his children are grown. Although "Double Play" is a memoir, not a family manual, I'm sure that, twenty years from now, the Zobrists may wish they had said some things differently, but I'm still glad they took the risk. One of my favorite things about this book is the role that Liberty Bible Church, Parkview Church and Community Bible Church played in the story. I've read a lot of baseball books, including books about Christian ballplayers, and I found this book's emphasis on these local churches refreshing. I also liked Ben's explanation of the book's title. I also smiled at this sentence, "But the times that Julianna and I would appear together were a lot of fun, especially because this was something that we could do together." It has a Yogi Berraish feel to it that's appropriate in a book called, "Double Play". Good for extra bases.

I ended up getting this Kindle book for my son for Christmas. We're both huge Cubs fans and just love the play of our Zobie for the beloved Cubs. I knew he was a Christian because of his college team named on his baseball stats and I liked that a lot about him. This is the first book that I have ever read start to finish in one sitting (plane trip for work). What impresses me more is reading about that in Double Play. The relationship that he writes about with God and his wife are inspirational. I always considered myself a border Christian but reading about his walk inspires me to live my life as

a Christian, husband and father with greater purpose. THANK YOU!

I liked Double Play by Ben & Julianna Zobrist. I find books written by famous people to be entertaining and to give the reader an insight into their personal life and this book was no different. Their writing style was simple and easy to read. I liked the style of each author providing their thoughts along the same time line. Ben's baseball life was the majority of the book, however Julianna did provide insights into her music career. I would recommend this book to readers who like baseball and stories about Christian lives.

Enjoyable behind the scenes look into the relationship of Julianna and Ben. I enjoyed reading about the intentional lives they lead along with the glimpse into life in the major leagues. I have already recommended the book to friends whose middle school age children (a boy, 12, who plays many sports, and a daughter, 13, who already struggles with body image issues) would get a lot out of the book - not to mention the parents enjoying the book as well.

I love Ben. What an inspiration he has been to so many people. What a wonderful role model for children who need good models!

I liked the unique way this husband/wife team coauthored the book. That format gives the reader two perspectives on events in the story. They've turned what could easily be a boring account of their lives into a book that kept my interest, inspired me at times, and entertained me as well. Horray, too for their bold faith that is the fabric of who they are in real life.

Came promptly and enjoyed it so much.

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