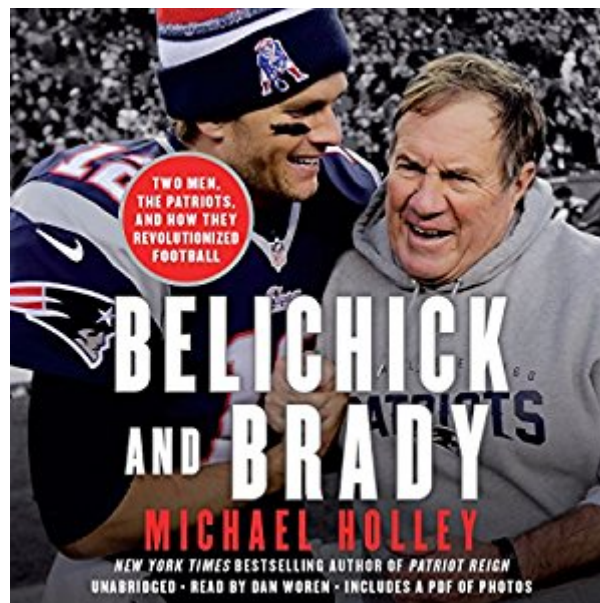




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# Belichick And Brady: Two Men, The Patriots, And How They Revolutionized Football



## Synopsis

From the NYT best-selling author with unprecedented access to the Patriot franchise comes Belichick and Brady, the epic inside story of the rise and dominance of Tom Brady, Bill Belichick, and the New England Patriots. Featuring interviews from Patriots players and coaches, Holley presents a fascinating portrait of the partnership between Tom Brady, the Patriots' star quarterback, and Bill Belichick, the team's prolific coach. Chock-full of behind-the-scenes anecdotes and information exploring how they have strategized and weathered controversies, all culminating in four Super Bowl rings, this is required listening for any Patriots fan and students of the game of football. By examining the relationship between this dynamic quarterback and coach duo, Holley explores exactly how these two men have formed the core of the greatest dynasty in the modern-day NFL.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book, but it could have been so much more. As I sat down to review this book, much of Bob L.'s excellent review on 10/12/16 rang true. The book is a breezy, season-by-season recap of New England Patriots history and personalities from 2000 to early 2016, with Bill Belichick and Tom Brady of course featured prominently in the narrative. For many Patriots fans, that will be enough. What it lacks, however is any kind of in-depth or close-up analysis of the relationship between the two or how to divvy up credit for their incredible run of success - which is what seems to be promised by the promotional materials for the book and what I think many serious fans most would love to read. There is some interesting discussion of Belichick's philosophy of roster-building, which

involves "spreading the wealth" across the full roster rather than paying high salaries to a few superstars (all teams have the same salary "cap" they cannot exceed, so it's not that the Patriots are cheap). This approach extends to trading down to accumulate more, lower priced draft picks (or future picks) from other teams. Of course, this is already common knowledge to close followers of the Patriots, and these kinds of analyses are few and far between in the book. Quantitative analyses and statistics for the most part are ignored, other than to describe individual game results. The author also misses opportunities to convey the suspense and drama of many of the incredibly exciting Patriots games over the years, as if their outcome was pre-ordained. For example, the final game described in the book is the 2016 AFC Championship game between New England and Denver. I vividly remember the final Patriots drive as they struggled to catch Denver. It included a long strike from Brady to Gronkowski on 4th and 10 followed by a 4th down TD catch by Gronk to bring the score to 20-18 Denver - the only Gronk touchdown I can remember without the patented Gronk power spike. It then all came down to a 2 point conversion that Denver successfully staved off. The thrilling game was much more competitive than the Super Bowl that followed. Another of many layers to the story was that a 2-point conversion was required because the Pats' kicker had earlier missed an extra point - no doubt influenced by the new rule championed by Belichick that moved the extra point try further away from the goalposts. Holley's version? Six bland sentences, concluding "The seventeenth and final Brady-Manning game lacked the artistic flourishes that many of the sixteen before it had. In the end, the Patriots made it competitive, but they lost 20-18." Granted, there wasn't space in the book to give an in-depth review of 18 seasons of games, but side stories about the Red Sox and Bruins certainly could have given way to a few more about Patriots games. And too often, just as suspense builds, it is dissipated by the author quickly moving on to the next topic. In the end, the timing of the book is curious - there is no narrative arc or conclusion that the book builds to; it just kind of ends randomly, when the Appeals court overturns the lower court decision about "Deflategate." We see that Belichick and Brady are very competitive and very successful - but did anyone doubt that? Other than those facts, there's no thesis, no grand synthesis, no real unveiling of the mystery of how year after year the Patriots could have been so consistently successful in a game with a huge component of chance and luck. Shall we say, the end is deflating? Still, if you want to learn more about the ins and outs of the Patriots, this covers a lot and is an easy read. If that's sufficient, I would not discourage you from reading the book. I truly did enjoy the it, even if I already had read much of the information in the press over the years.

Bought this for my husband, couldn't find a championship shirt in time for his birthday. He is a picky

reader but loved this, polished it off in 3 days.

Interesting well-written account of the B and B era. Also makes the point that their success has not come easy....and makes the case for G O A T status. They have enjoyed remarkable success over their 18+ years together. Nobody in the NFL has had a better run

My husband got three copies of this for his birthday! He loved it and gave the other two away.

Book goes into great detail on these 2. Well worth purchasing for any true patriot's fan.

Absolutely loved it! What a great insight into the lives of two football icons and their dedication to their craft. Love or hate Belichick, this look into his world shows a coach who understands and loves to develop people!

Purchased for my husband. He said it was good. He is a Patriot's FAN.

John Feinstein spoils me with his story telling. This was factual, just not exciting. I had the feeling he was telling us only as much as the team would share and we all know with New England that's not much

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