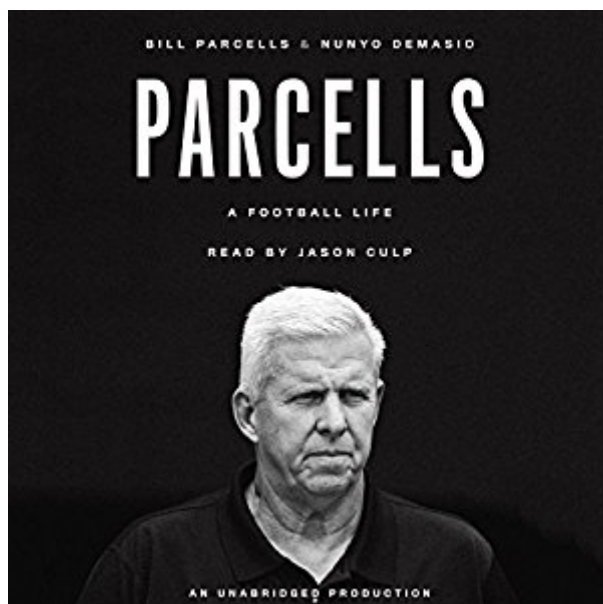


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# Parcells: A Football Life



## Synopsis

Bill Parcells may be the most iconic football coach of our time. During his decades-long tenure as an NFL coach, he turned failing franchises into contenders. He led the ailing New York Giants to two Super Bowl victories, turned the New England Patriots into an NFL powerhouse, reinvigorated the New York Jets, brought the Dallas Cowboys back to life, and was most recently enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Taking readers behind the scenes with one of the most influential and fascinating coaches the NFL has ever known, Parcells will take a look back at this coach's long, storied and influential career, offer a nuanced portrayal of the complex man behind the coach, and examine the inner workings of the NFL.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 26 hours and 9 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 28, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00O4CXQSI

Best Sellers Rank: #71 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Coaching > Football (American) #123 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Football #241 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports

## Customer Reviews

I grew up watching one of the all-time best linebackers in NFL history: number "56" -- Lawrence Taylor -- of the New York football Giants. And I remember watching as the imposing figure on the sidelines, whose coaching style was nothing short of driven to win: Bill Parcells. This book takes the reader on a journey from the early days of Bill's childhood -- where he was raised by a tough father -- to his induction into the NFL Hall of Fame. Because it is difficult to sum up a 500+ page biography in a short blog book review, I will hit on a few points that inspired my thinking. THE INFLUENCE OF A FATHER: There are many reasons why fathers' influence over our sons' lives are crucial. For instance, who we are as fathers/men and how we treat our children and wives cause our children to view our Heavenly Father in much the same ways as they view us. Are they afraid of us, or do they

find comfort in our presence? Are we lazy, or are we driven? Who Bill Parcels was as a coach, and who he is as a man, is the direct result of his father's strong influence on him. The two men pulled no punches; they knew what was necessary to be successful; and they were driven to accomplish their goals. Many of the stories told in the book regarding Bill's coaching tenure returned to the influence his own father had on him. Fatherhood is no small task! BEING TOUGH, BUT RESPECTABLE: I think we humans tend to equate a coach (or a supervisor) being "tough" with his/her employees to being a jerk. Likewise, we may also be tempted to equate "respectable" to being liked or nice. But that isn't necessarily so. Bill Parcels cared about his players, and he cared about winning.

Bill Parcels: A Football Life is an apt title. His life was wrapped up in football such that in a sense if there is no football there isn't much Bill Parcels. His life also intersected with many people, and the book gives some brief background on men like Curtis Martin, Drew Bledsoe and so many others. This is a quite interesting read to be sure. It isn't just about what happened, but gives much insight into the "why's". You read about how he learned about scouting and rating players from Bucko Kilroy, the beginning of the 3-4 defense and other interesting aspects of football. You soon begin to think that most football executives should read this. While the book is authored by Parcels and Nunyo DeMasio it is written in the third person. There are numerous quotes from interviews of the many people in Parcels life. This helps balance Parcels perspective in many ways. In many ways the portrait that emerges is not surprising. He is a driven man. As he noted in his Hall of Fame induction he was also married to football. Just as you can't serve two masters, you can't serve to "wives". His passion for football eventually cost him his marriage, and nearly cost him his daughters. But the man who didn't parent his daughters essentially parented many young men. That is the odd, bitter irony of Bill Parcels life. Football gave him nearly everything he has, but it also took so much from him. He also emerges as a man torn by indecision apart from football strategy. He could be quite indecisive, seemingly changing his mind at very inopportune moments. As a result there was also a trail of fractured relationships with GMs and owners that paralleled his long-term relationships. So strong and decisive in some areas and so unstable in others.

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