BRANCH RICKEY: A LIFE by Jimmy Breslin
B RICKEY, CD AUDIOBOOK
The movie 42 was released in the spring of 2013, telling the story of Jackie Robinson. This book was a great follow up to the man who had the courage to bring Jackie Robinson into professional baseball. A large portion of Rickey’s biography ties into the movie. It gives a nice look into his life in baseball.

WAIT TILL NEXT YEAR by Doris Kearns Goodwin
796.357 GOO
Goodwin writes a wonderful memoir about the influence of her family and of baseball, the national pastime, on her childhood growing up in the 1950s on Long Island, where you were a Dodger, Yankee, or Giants fan. Beautifully written is this book about the bond that baseball gave her and her family during their lives ups and downs.

CALICO JOE by John Grisham
F GRI, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK, OVERDRIVE EBOOK
This is told from the perspective of a man looking back at 1973 when his father pitched for the Mets. At the same time a rookie phenom starts and the baseball world is crazy about the rookie Joe Castle, playing for the Cubs. The boy’s father is hard to be around and tough and jealous player at the end of his career. The two players eventually meet up with a disastrous outcome.

THE ART OF FIELDING by Chad Harbach
F HAR, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK
This is a great work of fiction, combining baseball and the lives of five people at a small college. Their lives are forever tied together after several years together at the college. This is not strictly a baseball book, but it does connect all of the characters. This book has received a lot of good press and it is well deserved. The audiobook was a great production.
THE HEAVENLY WORLD SERIES by Frank O’Rourke

F O’RO
This is a wonderful collection of short stories about baseball of yesterday. In some stories, O’Rourke intertwines baseball legends with fictional players to create an inside look at the game. In the title story, imagine a game of baseball between the best players of both leagues – playing at their prime – what a game that would be.

THE END OF BASEBALL by Peter Schilling, Jr.
F SCH
I really enjoyed this fictional account of what could have happened had integration happened sooner in professional baseball. It was a fun look at some of the all-stars of the Negro leagues, most of whom never played in major league baseball. Many funny instances, a lot of bonding during a difficult time and some sad, but real events of what they endured.

MURDER AT FENWAY PARK by Troy Soos
M SOO
Mickey Rawlings, a recurring character in this series of baseball mysteries, finds himself being signed with the Boston Red Sox in 1912. As he reports to Fenway for his first day, he stumbles upon a dead body. When he is found with the body he is brought in for questioning. While trying to prove he didn’t murder this fellow player he helps to solve the murder – could it be Ty Cobb?

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BASEBALL by Mike Stadler
796.357019 STA
This is about the why and how of baseball. It is somewhat technical and requires your thinking along with the author as he explains the physics and mechanics involved in hitting, catching and throwing a baseball. All are based (no pun intended) on various tests conducted through the years starting with Babe Ruth. Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is the last chapter, which deals with the psychology of the fan.

Compiled by Kristin Redmond