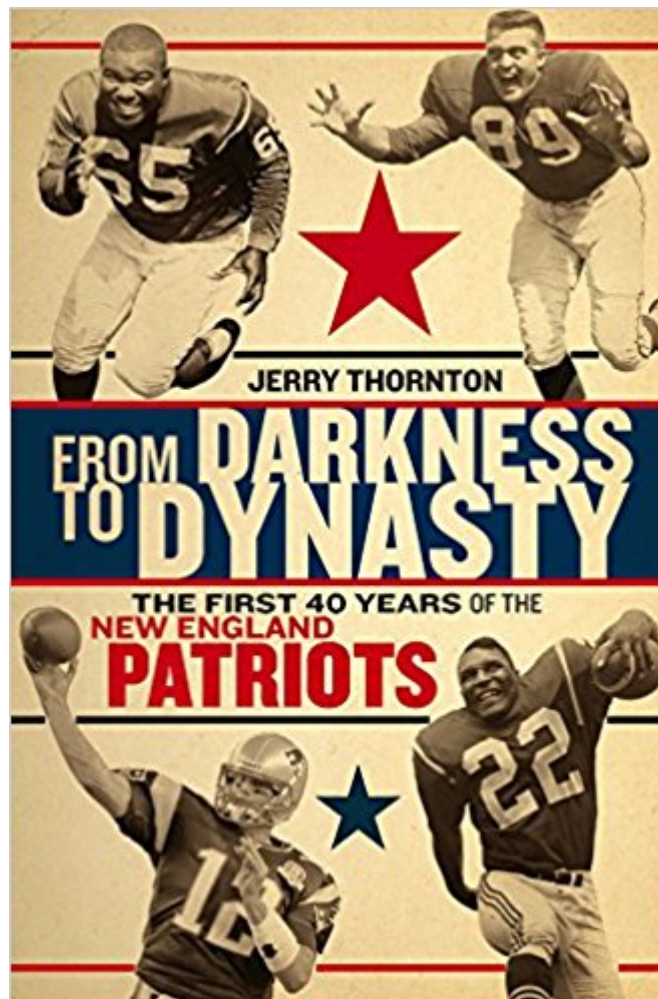


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# From Darkness To Dynasty: The First 40 Years Of The New England Patriots



## Synopsis

Love them or hate them, what the New England Patriots have been able to do over the past fifteen years is nothing short of remarkable. In addition to their four Super Bowl championships, the Patriots have the best coach in the league, a smart and savvy front office, and a future Hall of Fame quarterback who is internationally recognized as the face of the NFL. The longer the Patriots continue to dominate on the field as well as in the media and the American pop culture landscape, the harder it becomes for anyone to remember them as something other than a model franchise and the ultimate paradigm of success and accomplishment. Anyone, that is, except for Jerry Thornton. It wasn't always sunshine and roses for the Patriots; in fact, for the bulk of their existence, it was exactly the opposite. Though difficult to fathom now, the New England Patriots of old weren't just bad—they were laughably bad. Not so long ago, the Pats were the laughingstock of not only the NFL but also the entire sporting world. *From Darkness to Dynasty* tells the unlikely history of the New England Patriots as it has never been told before. From their humble beginnings as a team bought with rainy-day money by a man who had no idea what he was doing to the fateful season that saw them win their first Super Bowl, Jerry Thornton shares the wild, humiliating, unbelievable, and wonderful stories that comprised the first forty years of what would ultimately become the most dominant franchise in NFL history. Witty, hilarious, and brutally honest, *From Darkness to Dynasty* returns to the thrilling, perilous days of yesteryear—a welcome corrective for those who hate the Patriots and a useful reminder for those who love them that all glory is fleeting.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: ForeEdge; First Edition edition (September 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1611689740

ISBN-13: 978-1611689747

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.3 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #9,689 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Football (American) #12 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports #125 in Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

## Customer Reviews

A book like this has been long overdue. With Jerry Thornton authoring, and Michael Holly contributing, and forgive my shameful shout "out to Dale Arnold " " " who didn't contribute " " " but hockey season is nearly upon us sensei, it's nice to see the afternoon guys at WEEI step up to shed some light on what it means to live a long life following the Patriots. And you are not going to get much more "life" longer than me. A proud native of New England, I was born...Thanks Mom!...one month before the team's inaugural game, which means my conception...Thanks Dad!...likely took place the same week in November (1959) that the Sullivan family were awarded the AFL franchise. |WHAT, No, No, No, referee Ben Dreith just threw a roughing the passer flag on "Sugar Bear Hamilton |Sorry, I suffer from unexpected traumatic flashbacks. It's not easy being a Pats fan these days, and this sentiment will garner you no sympathy. But the fact remains, those of us from the sixties have been to Hell & back, and should have no shame reveling in the success of the Belichick/Brady era. Consider this, this team had nearly as many playoff wins in the last five seasons as it accrued in its first FOUR decades. Some fans act as if we are a 2001 expansion team, never having survived a 3 "10, 2 "12, 2 "14, or a 1 "15 season. They weren't around for the great "Toilet Bowl Flush" needed to certify Schaefer Stadium. Or when a prison inmate plowed us to victory over the Dolphins, forever making an enemy out of bitter ole Don Shula. Here's your asterisk (\*) Mr. Shula. |WAIT, Yes, I know we passed on Jerry Rice " | Now we drafted Tony Freakin' Eason over Dan Marine Nooooooooo |Once again, my apologies.

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