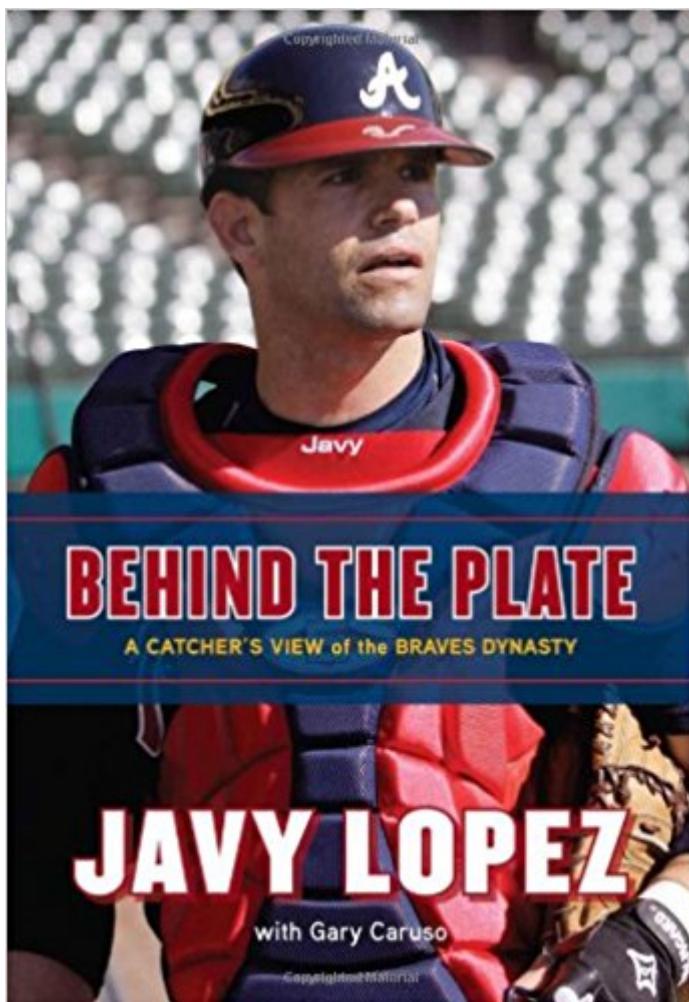


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# Behind The Plate: A Catcher's View Of The Braves Dynasty



## Synopsis

Popular Atlanta Braves catcher Javier Á Javy Á Lopez opens up in this autobiography to tell his amazing story, from learning to play baseball on a neighborhood basketball court to his record of 42 Á home runs in a season by a catcher. The product of a lower-middle-class background in Puerto Rico, Á Javy had to overcome numerous hardships Á not the least of which was a language barrier Á to fulfill his destiny as one of the most accomplished catchers of the modern era. He tells of bumps along the way to success, including why he overstated his signing bonus as well as the time in the minors when he cried during an all-night meltdown Á due to Á his struggles on the field. But he went on to be named MVP of the 1996 National League Championship Series, and played on 12 of the Atlanta Braves Á unprecedented 14 straight division-winning teams of the 1990s and 2000s. From his relationship with great teammates such as Greg Maddux and John Smoltz, to his failed comeback attempt with the Braves in 2008, this autobiography tells all about the handsome, warm, engaging Lopez and how he became one of baseball Á s most popular players.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[An] interesting read." Á Á Times-Journal

Javy Lopez is a three-time All-Star and the catcher for the Atlanta Braves powerhouse teams of the 1990s, including the squad that won the 1995 World Series. He lives in Suwanee, Georgia. Gary Caruso is a sports journalist, Braves historian, and author of *The Braves Encyclopedia*

and A Turner Field: Rarest of Diamonds. He lives in Vista, California.

Javy was there, ..right in the middle of the glorious run the Braves had in the 90's, on into the 21th Century! He really tries to give his experiences in clear, concise terms that the reader can relate to. He individually mentions many of the players that he played with, and describes his relationship with them. This is a pleasant book to read for anyone, but if you were a Braves fan during those great years - you will love this story. I just finished the new John Smoltz book prior to reading Javy's book, and can honestly recommend both to any Braves fan, or anyone interested in reading a book about a professional athletes life. Both authors tell of their personal lives, and how playing professional sports while maintaining a family can be very challenging, I learned a lot about my team from both of these heroes. Also, you get answers to the questions that had no answers like why Javy left the Braves in 2004, or why the Baltimore effort did not pan out. The photos were well chosen, and I really enjoyed the book!

One of the better baseball books I have read. Javy gives a lot of stats for different games and players. He also explains his behavior for not signing before games and how his first marriage went down. I am almost done reading this book and within the first few chapters I was even more enamored with Javy. He is a relatable guy and I love that he puts his heart on these pages. He doesn't diss anyone nor does he talk about PEDs (there were rumors with his 2003 season). I think he gives GREAT advice for catchers especially. Wonderful insight into the game he played for years. I am proud to be a Braves fan and miss seeing him behind the plate.

I was expecting more drama around him not catching Maddux, but at the same time I'm glad there wasn't. Some of the stories in the book had the same sentences, just worded differently, several times. But otherwise it was fun to read his side of the story about his experience in the major leagues.

This is really a great book if you are a baseball fan. It is well written and gives you a view of what goes on with the players that we don't get just watching them play. Javy was one of my favorite players and I really enjoyed this book.

Any Braves fan during this time will enjoy reading Javy's tales of the Braves. No real behind the scenes dirt tho. Javy likes everyone. John Rocker was nice when he wasn't crazy. Wish he had

gone farther like Mike Piazza did in his book. Easy read.

Javy is my all-time favorite athlete, and I was stoked when I found out about this book. As an avid Braves fan, I enjoyed reading about the 14 year run from his perspective. My heart was broken for him when he talked about not being able to remain a Brave for his entire career. I knew he was a classy guy, but reading his feelings about fans really brought that to life. Thank you Javy for letting me into your world!!

It was an easy book to read, very informative. It was a very good description of behind the account of the relationships between the catcher and pictures, it also enlightened you a little on many of the Atlanta Brave players.

A few expletives used that I assumed would not be there for the reader I gave this too. Still a good read for a fan.

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