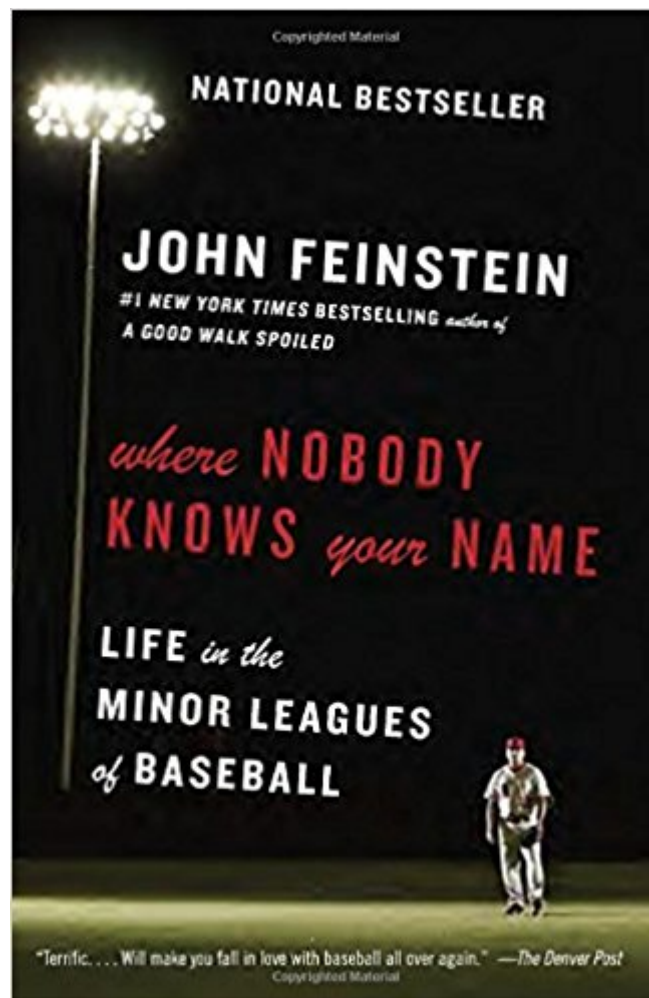




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Where Nobody Knows Your Name: Life In The Minor Leagues Of Baseball (Anchor Sports)



Synopsis

Minor league baseball is quintessentially American: small towns, small stadiums, \$5 tickets, \$2 hot dogs, the never-ending possibility of making it big. But looming above it all is always the real deal: Major League Baseball. John Feinstein takes the reader behind the curtain into the guarded world of the minor leagues, like no other writer can. *Where Nobody Knows Your Name* explores the trials and travails of the inhabitants of Triple-A, focusing on nine men, including players, managers and umpires, among many colorful characters, living on the cusp of the dream. The book tells the stories of former World Series hero Scott Podsednik, giving it one more shot; Durham Bulls manager Charlie Montoya, shepherding generations across the line; and designated hitter Jon Lindsey, a lifelong minor leaguer, waiting for his day to come. From Raleigh to Pawtucket, from Lehigh Valley to Indianapolis and beyond, this is an intimate and exciting look at life in the minor leagues, where you're either waiting for the call or just passing through.

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Customer Reviews

The prolific and best-selling Feinstein here spends a year (the 2012 season) with the players and managers (and others) of the Triple A International League, the apex of minor-league baseball. But, as Feinstein makes clear both explicitly and with the telling detail and quote, it is a wholly different culture and a long way from the majors, which remains the dream of all participants—newcomers, those who have made it there previously (in a few cases as stars), and those who, in the course of a season, make the trip up and back, sometimes with

astounding frequency. It is a frustrating experience, far from luxurious, and there is a sameness and a sadness to the individual lives. They are rivals rather than pals, all looking to go up, and the primary function of the teams is player development more than winning. As Feinstein's focus is on a cross section of the league, including the Durham Bulls and the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, rather than on a particular team, the book lacks the drama of, say, a pennant race. Like the players, Feinstein's account has its ups and downs, but it is sure to interest true fans of the game. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Feinstein gets a level of marketing support and media attention unknown to most authors of sports books; his latest will be no exception. --Mark Levine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"[T]errific" [R]eading this book will make you fall in love with baseball all over again. •The Denver Post "One of the best sportswriters alive." •USA Today "Feinstein's work, like that of the best American sportswriters, is richly detailed and emotionally articulate...Feinstein's storytelling is compelling, his understanding of the structural cruelties and emotional consequences of winner-takes-all competition acute." •The Guardian (UK) "Feinstein takes readers down the dusty roads of minor league baseball with a vivid look at the players dreaming of a shot at the big leagues." •Parade "John Feinstein, one of our best-known sportswriters, explores baseball's International League, one of the two AAA leagues, just below the majors. With many of us counting down to opening day, this is a fitting time for a book whose subtitle might well be 'Hope springs eternal' • every spring." •The Washington Post "[P]oignant [2013] marked the 25th anniversary of Bull Durham, and I'm pretty sure a lot of people still think that's how things go in the minors. Mr. Feinstein clears the perspective on the realities of minor-league life so that the reader can move on from Nuke LaLoosh imagery. And for the average baseball fan, this is no minor accomplishment." •The Wall Street Journal

I have never read any of John Feinstein's other works. Reading the other reviews it is clear most everyone has, and after reading this book I will get right on it. There is a tendency in baseball books (other than fact packs like Baseball Prospectus) to pick an emotion and stick with it. The author has the rare ability to present the facts in an unbiased way that allowed me to develop my own opinions

of the subjects (two managers, three pitchers, an outfielder, a DH and an umpire) and their pursuits of big league dreams. He doesn't play a Bull Durham heartbreak angle and this isn't a fluff piece promoting one or two of the subjects of the book. Even better is the fact it isn't a hit piece on an individual, a team, the sport, or the system and how it churns and burns dreams. The most amazing part of this book is how it allows the reader to feel the sense of urgency these guys have. In some cases the men have a long road ahead and patience is a virtue they can't afford to possess. In other cases it is truly a last chance at the show, where a string of a couple of bad games could truly mean the end of the only life they have known since childhood. I can't believe how much I felt for the subjects of this book. Imagine being in your twenties or early thirties and being a doctor, lawyer, or banker and hearing it's time to move on to another life. I had a tendency to look at players who couldn't quite make it as numbers, not people. It is easy to say you should have chosen a more realistic profession. This book changed my thoughts, and I can see how easy it is to get lost in your dreams. If you can read this book and not check box scores to see how these guys are doing, and checking the umpire power rankings to see where Mark Lollo sits. If you think the timeline for players is short imagine being near the top of the tmac Umpire chart with the comment "Over 30 and stock is sinking" . Read this book. It is worth your time even if you have no interest in baseball or sports in general.

I almost always read a John Feinstein sports non-fiction book to completion, which is a good indication of his quality and ability to keep the reader interested (and they are usually long, I like value for my content money). He is an extremely prolific writer for quite some time now, don't know how he does it. On this particular book about the minor leagues -- it focuses on a limited number of players, manager-types and an umpire. There are some very interesting life arcs, details and stories about these men. Kind of interesting that the author tells up front what became of these guys -- he perhaps could have kept it a bit more suspense-driven for those of us who aren't familiar with their careers and didn't want to Wiki them while reading the book. This is more of a nit pick, not a reason to ignore this book -- it does get a bit repetitive and sort of jumps around willy-nilly at times, I think he repeats the same story or anecdote or description a few times. Also, the baseball minor leagues have been covered several times before in very interesting/enjoyable books. Still, it's a cool subject that fans of baseball and non-fiction sports books will enjoy overall -- and those who know and enjoy Feinstein's work will find a comfortably familiar read (in a good way).

This book was not what I expected, but not in a bad way. I was expecting a lighthearted,

anecdote-filled narrative with, frankly, some goofy stuff. Instead, what I found was a series of tales of shattered dreams, grit, determination, realism and frustration about a group of men who give everything to "the game", most of whom will never see the inside of a major league locker room or, worse, see it for only a few days in their entire careers. Most are "locked in" to baseball, not because they don't have other options in their lives (though many don't), but because they can't imagine life without being part of it. And not just the players, but the coaches, the umpires and even the announcers. This book opened my eyes to a whole new world that most of us never think about and we suddenly realize that even though WE weren't good enough to play the game at the highest level, our beliefs about what happens when someone signs with a major league organization are not even remotely close to the reality. It was a sad, sad book, but one well worth reading. Even at the top, there are just too many really good players and not enough openings. The baseball world grinds on, chewing up these young hopefuls and casting them aside when they can no longer contribute (or sometimes, even when they can). A "must-read" for any serious fan or student of the game.

As I write this review, 2015 Spring Training is about to come to an end, and with the start of the new season comes the "assignments". Some players will be shocked, some will be very disappointed, and some will retire. Such is life, in the Minor Leagues of Baseball. Once the first week of April passes, it becomes all about the "call"..... A tap on the shoulder, and the words, Skip wants to see you in his office, can cause a player's knees to lock up in fear. Fear of being demoted, fear of being let go, fear of being traded, and yes, even fear of being called up. I live in a town, where we have had 2 "high A" teams, and now have a wooden bat, extended Spring Training League team. I was a personal trainer at a local gym, that had a contract with the teams, and I trained many of them. I saw first hand, how "player movement" effected the minds of these young men. This book takes you on the field, in the locker rooms, and into the homes, of a hand full of minor league players, and even that of the longtime manager of the Durham Bulls, they being 65 miles from where I live, that was let go after last season. So, grab a hot dog and a cold one, sit back, and enjoy a trip to the Minor Baseball Leagues.

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