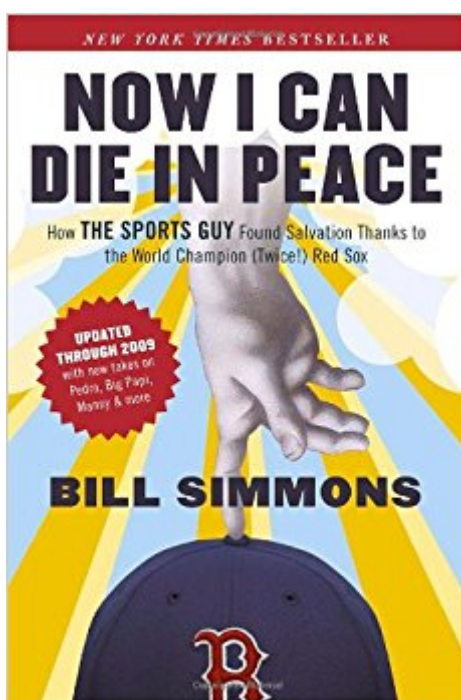


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Now I Can Die In Peace: How The Sports Guy Found Salvation Thanks To The World Champion (Twice!) Red Sox



Synopsis

ESPN's beloved Sports Guy replays the years leading up to the Boston Red Sox historic championship season and says goodbye to a lifetime of suffering. At least for now. "The Red Sox won the World Series." "To Citizen No. 1 of Red Sox Nation, those seven words meant "No more 1918 chants. No more smug glances from Yankee fans. No more worrying about living an entire life -- that's 80 years, followed by death without seeing the Red Sox win a Series." But once he was able to type those life-changing words, Bill Simmons decided to look back at his Sports Guy columns for the last five years to find out how the miracle came to pass. And that's where the trouble began. Why didn't he see it coming? Why didn't it happen sooner? What was the key deal, the lucky move, the funny bounce, the sign from above that he failed to spot? Pretty soon, The Sports Guy was second-guessing himself, rewriting history, sniping at his own past predictions, pounding the table -- that's what sports guys do, right And doing so, he let himself get sidetracked by the suffering of the Boston Bruins, frustrated by the false promise of the Celtics -- and driven into a state of ecstasy by the dynastic New England Patriots. The result is "Now I Can Die in Peace, a hilarious and fresh new look at some of the best sportswriting in America, with sharp critical commentary (and fresh insights) from the guy who wrote it in the first place.

Book Information

Paperback: 468 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books; Updated ed. edition (March 24, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1933060727

ISBN-13: 978-1933060729

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 137 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #629,997 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Journalism #179 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Sports #1098 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball

Customer Reviews

Starred Review Thirtysomething Simmons, author of the witty "Sports Guy" column on espn.com, tells of his life as a Red Sox fan in this hilarious, irreverent account. Simmons recalls reading the Boston Globe sports pages before he was in grade school, taking in as much Red Sox lore as he

could garner. When he came across a copy of Al Hirschberg's *What's the Matter with the Red Sox?* in first grade, he didn't want to believe that his beloved team was cursed. But as owners and players made one bonehead move after another, he could only sit back and wallow in the collective suffering. The reversal of the curse began, according to Simmons, with the acquisition of Pedro Martinez, the first sign that the front office was after young players approaching their prime rather than looking back at it. From that fateful day in 1997, Simmons, blending his reprinted columns with new material, tracks the essential moves that brought the Sox to the 2004 World Series and made possible their sweep of the Cardinals in four games. (The last 100 pages or so are a diary of the season's final weeks, the play-offs, and the series). The footnotes, cleverly arranged like sidebars, make for fascinating reading in and of themselves. Whether familiar with "Sports Guy" or not, readers will enjoy this refreshing, funny take on Boston's reversal of fortune. Mary Frances Wilkens

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"Bill Simmons is the funniest sportswriter of his generation." -- Chuck Klosterman, author of *Killing Yourself to Live*

"Destination reading for anyone who worships at the twin altars of pop culture and sports." -- Entertainment Weekly

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"...And he was one-third of the infamous 1996 Boston coaching staff (along with Tim Johnson and Kevin Kennedy) that stood motionless on the top step of the dugout, wearing matching bushy mustaches, Raybans and warmup jackets, looking like they were participating in a photo shoot for gay baseball porn." The book contains articles written between 1998 and 2006 (in the new paperback), and it covers those Red Sox teams pretty extensively, with a HUGE focus on the 2003-2004 teams. Even so, Simmons occasionally provides the readers with tales from earlier Red Sox seasons (and other Boston sport teams too). He's not an objective columnist by any standard: he lives and dies with the Red Sox, and it makes his book both personal and entertaining. Through his writing, we get to know his friends, wife and most significantly, his father. He weaves in college anecdotes, family arguments, weddings, drunkalogues, and a myriad of pop-culture references into most of his articles. They fit in and add to his topics. It's a fun book. A must for any Red Sox fan, and along with "Mind Game", it's the best book about the 2004 Red Sox. One final note: I'm a Yankee fan.

The Sports Guy (SG) Bill Simmons comes out with his first book about the Red Sox winning the

world series. The only way I could have enjoyed it more was if it was all new material. I can only hope that he decides to write another book, although that would cut into his column writing, that is all new stuff. I am a religious reader of his ESPN.com page 2 column and even though I had read almost all of his old columns, it was great to reread them, especially with the added footnotes. There is something about his sense of humor, much like Chuck Klosterman, that just makes me laugh. In the book he details his life as a sports fan growing up in Boston and then his eventual move out to L.A. Excellent read especially in the restroom.

I'm a huge Bill Simmons fan, and have rooted for the Red Sox since 1978 (when I first visited Fenway - kind of an unfortunate year to become a fan, huh?). I think I was a bit disappointed because I had already read many of these articles on ESPN's website, and was hoping for something more. Though I still enjoyed his writing, as a book - it was disjointed and a little less enjoyable. I wish he had either written an entirely new book, or at least connected the dots a little better. Still, as a Red Sox/Bill Simmons fan, it was enjoyable, and I would recommend this book to others with similar tastes.

As much of Bill Simmons' work does, this book displayed the Boston-based sports writer's love of his hometown Red Sox and was written from the perspective that only real Simmons fans can understand. Simmons has a writing style that not many can match, given his sense of humor and sports knowledge. Put it this way: I'm a Yankees fan and I couldn't put this book down.

Great book for long time sox fanx

I was actually reading one of the classics received by my sister and brother-in-law (both teachers) when this book arrived in the mail...needless to say, the classic sat and gathered dust while I tore through the whole book without stopping. If you a sports fan and/or pop culture fan, you will find this book extremely entertaining. Even if you don't know the finer points of baseball, or the gruesome details of the Red Sox's struggles before winning the big one, this book will still keep you riveted and laughing long after your first web search for some of the more obscure movie star and sports star references. No longer a hidden gem, Bill Simmons has made his mark and is becoming a household name, and has drawn in non-sports fans to join his die-hard New England followers. If you are already a big sports fan, then you probably don't need to read this review as you already have the book in your possession...

Bought this for my son at his request, he is not a reader! He does enough reading of his college books, so to read for pleasure I was surprised, He did not put this book down! 23 yrs I have never seen him get into a book , but he does like the author , so wanted to give his books a whirl, I bought him the set , the first one he read and took the other back to school with him.

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