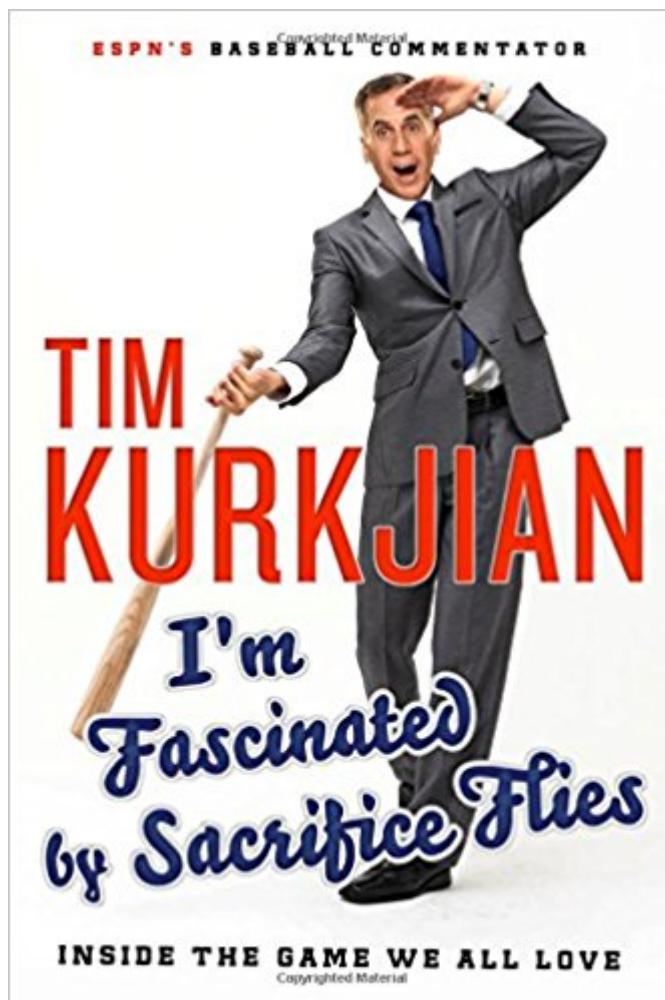


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I'm Fascinated By Sacrifice Flies: Inside The Game We All Love



Synopsis

The New York Times Bestseller!In the aftermath of the Steroid Era that stained the game of baseball, at a time when so many players are so rich and therefore have a sense of entitlement that they haven't earned, ESPN baseball commentator Tim Kurkjian shows readers how to love the game more than ever, with incredible insight and stories that are hilarious, heartbreaking, and revealing. From what Pete Rose was doing in the batting cage a few minutes after getting out of prison, to why everyone strikes out these days and why no one seems to care, I'm Fascinated By Sacrifice Flies will surprise even longtime baseball fans. Tim explains the fear factor in the game, and what it feels like to get hit by a pitch; Adam LaRoche wanted to throw up in the batter's box. He examines the game's superstitions: Eliot Johnson's choice of bubble gum, a poker chip in Sean Burnett's back pocket. He unearths the unwritten rules of the game, takes readers inside ESPN, and reveals how Tony Gwynn made baseball so much more fun to watch. And, of course, Tim will explain to readers why he is fascinated by sacrifice flies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoy Tim Kurkjian's energy, commentary, and enthusiasm for the great game of baseball. He's a keen observer who wears his passion plainly for all to see, and it's infectious. Although he doesn't write about the game with the skill of Donald Hill or Roger Angell (a tall order)--Kurkjian writes more like he's having a conversation the reader is interested in (even if slightly less so than Kurkjian himself)--he does have vast knowledge, a fine sense of humor, and writes entertainingly. "I'm Fascinated by Sacrifice Flies: Inside the Game We All Love" consists of 15 chapters that each read as if it could stand alone. And each is basically a love letter to the game

and many provide insights and interesting anecdotes, often in the players' own words. The book starts a little slow with Kurkjian's somewhat repetitive homage to what a great and difficult game baseball is (he's right), to include interesting and insightful chapters on what it's like to get hit by a pitch, superstitions, and of course, sacrifice flies. The chapter on baseball's unwritten rules is particularly interesting as is his obsessive compulsion with box scores and what he calls "Quirkjians" (odd, unique, interesting occurrences in the game). There is plenty of self-deprecating humor sprinkled throughout--the ESPN chapter a fine example. His interactions with John Kruk, Buck Showalter, and Terry Francona are all entertaining. The story about major league catcher (currently in minors with the Durham Bulls) J.P. Arencibia doing his impression of Kurkjian is hilarious (the video is worth watching and can easily be found online).

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