



Murder at Fenway Park

Troy Soos

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The year is 1912. Roosevelt, Taft and Debs are running for the White House. Ty Cobb and Shoeless Joe Jackson are battling for baseball's batting crown. And Mickey Rawlings, a young ballplayer fresh from the bush leagues, is about to get a major league education - when he stumbles on a murder in Fenway Park. From the old ballparks to the famous Red Sox plaid jackets, "Murder at Fenway Park" is filled with vivid, glorious details about baseball the way it used to be. Throw in a riveting murder mystery, a blossoming romance, and the irrespressible, unforgettable Mickey Rawlings, and you have one of the most entertaining novels to come down the basepath in many a season.

Murder at Fenway Park Details

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Author : Troy Soos

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From Reader Review Murder at Fenway Park for online ebook

John says

I really enjoyed this book, my first by this author. It is the first in a series and it covers fictional incidents from the 1912 Boston Red Sox season. Being a longtime baseball fan, I was impressed with the research that comes out clearly in this book. I am familiar with many of the names noted in this book and the writer brought them to life in a dynamic way. His methods brought you back to a time when major league baseball was really in its infancy. He also touched on how corrupt our society was in those days and how easy it was for someone to get away with a heinous crime. I plan to read the next installment in this series.

Kev Willoughby says

Boston, 1912. A rookie ballplayer who has recently been acquired by the Red Sox arrives at brand new Fenway Park just in time to find the body of a Tigers' third baseman. The police arrive shortly thereafter just in time to find the rookie ballplayer, who is now also a murder suspect.

This book had a great hook, and I enjoyed the supporting cast of Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Shoeless Joe Jackson, and other early legends of the game that weren't really characters in the story but their presence lent authenticity to a compelling story set in the early part of the 20th century. A murder mystery in that era, with limited means of communication, was fun to read and experience. However, I prefer a mystery that allows the reader to do the thinking. The story had a nice build up, but really jumped around quite a bit toward the end and introduced a lot of red herrings that I had not even considered and detracted from what could have been a great read. Baseball fans will enjoy this much more than mystery enthusiasts, and that's not saying much.

MJ says

I was drawn to this because of the setting - Fenway is our home ball park. I liked the mystery and enjoyed the baseball history and player trivia. But I had some trouble keeping track of all the characters as they came and went.

I finished this and picked up the best in the series, which I suppose says something good.

Annalisa says

This was an interesting story. I liked the historical parts, felt like I learned a lot about baseball, and enjoyed the suspense of the murder plot. The mystery seems a side plot to an overall love of baseball story. I enjoyed it a lot.

Anna says

2.5 stars, rounded up. This is an old-timey baseball story with a twisted murder mystery plot, poorly unraveled. It made the time pass is about all I can give it.

Linda says

Loved it!

If you are a baseball fan you will enjoy this book. It was a lot of fun reading about baseball in 1912 and you gotta love that it took a whole season to catch a murderer. I was as clueless as Mickey was. Looking forward to the next one.

Barbara says

The book is Soos' first in a series set in the past, revolving around baseball stadiums. The protagonist is Mickey Rawlings, who is a rookie with the Red Sox, playing at the brand new Fenway Park. His first day, Mick arrives late after a train delay, and stumbles over a dead body. Afraid he is being looked at for the murder, Mick decides to investigate. Although he is a decent ball player, he is a pretty bad detective. Luckily his would-be girlfriend, Peggy and a friend of hers who's a newspaper journalist, are much better investigators.

I learned a good amount of baseball history from this novel. The famous 1912 pitching battle between Joe Wood and Walter Johnson was included in the novel, as was, no surprise, the 1912 World Series which Boston won, defeating the NY Giants. I didn't know Fenway had a hill, later known as Duffy's Cliff, which forced left fielder's to play running uphill. Ty Cobb is a bad guy in the story, no surprise. Soos' description of Boston geography, though not extensive, is accurate. Trolleys were the way to get to Jamaica Plain, and Arnold Arboretum.

This was Soos's debut baseball mystery and a decent novel. I'd read more though this was going to be my favorite being a Red Sox fan, and considering Boston, my hometown. And I am watching the Sox playing in Fenway on tv while writing this.

Vic says

I'm not very knowledgeable about baseball, and I thought I would learn a lot from this book. Well, not really. The setting is 1912, so almost all of the baseball info is from that time for earlier.

Typical of a mystery, there isn't any character development, but, unlike most good mysteries, there aren't really enough clues to let the reader try to solve the crime. Everything is wrapped up at the end with a bow by an explanation, without much lead in. Nope, I won't be reading this series again.

Brina says

Even before I discovered the world of books, my first love was baseball. While I follow the game regularly and have passed the love onto my kids, I also enjoy studying the history of the game. Last year I found the Mickey Rawlings Baseball Mystery series by Troy Soos. Set in the 1910s, the novels focus on a utility player named Mickey Rawlings as he moves from team to team in his attempt to hang on in the major leagues. Murder at Fenway Park is the first book in the series and Soos first novel as he takes readers back in time to the early days of America's pastime.

It is 1912. Mickey Rawlings, age nineteen, has just been called up to the Red Sox to play in brand new Fenway Park. The first modern ball park, the Red Sox with the backing of Boston mayor Honey Fitzgerald and the Royal Rooters and hoping for a World Series victory. Assembling a stellar team featuring ace pitcher Smokey Joe Wood and batting star Tris Speaker, the Red Sox have the talent to win it all. Yet, as soon as Rawlings arrives in Boston, he discovers a dead body in one of Fenway's corridors, a plot that could possibly derail the Red Sox's special season.

Rawlings soon finds out that the body is none other than Detroit Tigers third baseman Red Corriden, a young man just a little older than himself. Even though he only stumbled upon the body, Rawlings desires to identify Corriden's murderer and bring him to justice. With the help of his friend New York Times reporter Karl Landfors, Rawlings slowly pieces together a gambling ring lead by bookie Arnold Rothstein, which employs ball players to fix games. Rothstein, who was later involved with the 1919 Black Sox scandal, had placed a fix on the American League batting race in addition to the standings, and his well placed players attempted to derail the great Ty Cobb from winning. Corriden was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and, unfortunately, had to be eliminated. If Rawlings refuses to stay out of the way, he could be next.

Soos series focuses on baseball during the 1910s. I have already read the novels about the Cubs and Yankees, and the books are historically accurate. This story predates the Red Sox curse when the Yankees were still the Highlanders, and the Red Sox battled the Cobb lead Tigers for the American League pennant on a yearly basis. In days before players unions, league president Ban Johnson held all of the power and could throw people out of the game on a whim. While the stories focus on Rawlings and perhaps a current love interest, I enjoy hearing about Hall of Famers such as Cobb, Nap Lajoie, Smokey Joe Wood, and Walter Johnson. Soos depiction of Cobb as a violent person is especially accurate, and having a murder cases focused around one of his batting titles was an interesting premise for a novel.

Murder at Fenway Park is Soos' debut novel. For a debut, I thought the writing was above average and paced well for a murder mystery. Rawlings character is not as fleshed out as later in the series, but he is introspective for a ball player and an inquisitive wide eyed kid in this debut. Soos baseball mysteries are a perfect read for during the baseball season as they are fun, fast paced historical whodunits. I eventually would like to read the entire series and rate this debut effort 3.5 stars.

Stephen says

1912, Boston. The Titanic is only a few weeks lost to the North Atlantic bottom, but Mickey Rawling's mind isn't on one of the biggest maritime disasters of history. No, he's just been inducted into the Major Leagues,

hired to play with the Boston Red Sox, and his first night he's stumbled upon a man beaten so badly the victim's face no longer exists. And then Mickey threw up on it, just for good measure. *Murder at Fenway Park* is the story of a rookie ball player who turns amateur detective when he realizes the police intend on fingering him for the crime. While the cozy relationship between the Red Sox and the police might protect him during the baseball season, come fall he'll be left to his own devices.

The first in Trey Soos' baseball-murder mysteries, *Murder at Fenway* takes readers through a violence summer, in which Rawlings rubs shoulders with baseball greats like Ty Cobb, and does his best -- with the aide of a nickelodeon musician and a Socialist working on the garment factory-version of *The Jungle* -- to figure out who did it before either being arrested or beaten to a pulp by the original murderer. The writing is sometimes unpolished, but the opening framing device -- an old man wandering through the Baseball Hall of Fame, feeling he and the sport have become long-distant strangers, then flashing back to the murder story on seeing the victim on a baseball card -- was well executed. I suspect readers will find the setting more interesting than the mystery, considering how dramatic this era was in baseball. This was the decade that produced legends who gave their names to awards -- Cy Young, Ty Cobb -- although we're two years away from Babe Ruth stepping up to the plate. This is technically alt-fiction, considering that Soos kills off a player who -- in reality, died of a heart attack in 1959.

Murder at Fenway Park is by no means amazing literature, but it's enjoyable if you like early-20th century mysteries, or golden age baseball.

Christopher Ramsay says

Interesting story about Mickey Rawlings and his adventures at Fenway Park while playing for the Red Sox. Baseball, murder, and intrigue make this a book worth reading. Suitable for pleasure reading during the season.

Larry Lange says

I am not sure why, but it took me longer to read this short book than it does books twice as long.

Charly says

As a mystery it wasn't overwhelming, but when you add in the baseball history it goes up a star. entertaining and relatively fast moving piece. Based in part at Fenway in its first season a great deal of the legend and lore of the stadium and the era are brought out.

Gail Chall says

So boring! Couldn't maintain my interest nor did I have a desire to read and/or finish this book--I did because I was reading it for a book club. I usually like books that are cozies and that don't have serial killers or

include a lot of suspense. But this one was awful, with so many typographical and grammatical errors, that the reader even had a hard time following the name of a main character. Maybe the paperback version was clean, but the Kindle edition had constant replacements of the letter "l" with the letter "t." Maybe a fanatical baseball history buff would enjoy this story, but I sure didn't.

Ronna says

As a baseball lover and mystery lover, I found this book to be a fun beginning to a baseball mystery series. In 1912, a young baseball player, Mickey Rawlings, has just gotten his call to play in the big leagues with the Boston Red Socks. He's come into the brand new Fenway Park to check in and immediately finds the body of one of his team mates. Red Corriden's head is bash up badly, but the police and team owner just seem to want everything hushed up. Would've want any bad publicity for the new stadium. But there's much more to it than that, and Mickey finds he has to discover the murderer before someone kills him too.

I found this book to be a real winner. The mystery was interesting, and was filled with numerous fun facts about real historical players and team owners of that time period. It was also interesting living the life of a ball player of that time. Surely different from today's players. Lots of big names came into play, Ty Cobb and Cy Young amongst them. Troy Soos managed to be factual about the real people and maintain a fictional story as well. Great reading for mystery lovers during baseball season!!
