



The Utility of Boredom

Andrew Forbes

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A collection of essays for ardent seamheads and casual baseball fans alike, The Utility of Boredom is a book about finding respite and comfort in the order, traditions, and rituals of baseball. It's a sport that shows us what a human being might be capable of, with extreme dedication--whether we're eating hot dogs in the stands, waiting out a rain delay in our living rooms, or practising the lost art of catching a stray radio signal from an out-of-market broadcast.

From learning about America through ball diamond visits to the most famous triple play that never happened on Canadian soil, Forbes invites us to witness the adult conversing with the O Pee-Chee baseball cards of his youth. Tender, insightful, and with the slow heartbreak familiar to anyone who's cheered on a losing team, The Utility of Boredom tells us a thing or two about the sport, and how a seemingly trivial game might help us make sense of our messy lives.

The Utility of Boredom Details

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From Reader Review The Utility of Boredom for online ebook

Darrin Davis says

Knocks it out of the park. :) Absolutely loved this book. Brought back so many sweet childhood memories. Excellent read.

A.J.B. Johnston says

I'm no longer a passionate baseball fan—not since I was a kid—but I found this little book to be a terrific and thoughtful read. Thanks to my son, Colin, for suggesting it. The writing is clever and amusing, and sometimes poignant. Yes, it's about baseball, but it's also about the human condition. Kudos to author Andrew Forbes and the publishers.

Gregory says

There isn't a bad essay in here.

There is a lot of charm, nostalgia and love in here. There is a lot for readers who don't watch baseball, there is a lot for readers who love baseball. We get to see a profile/love-letter to Ichiro, a father/daughter relationship and how it's maneuvering a love of baseball, and we also get to see a collective sense of loss within a Peterborough, Ontario bar as the Toronto Blue Jays are eliminated from post-season play. This is less about baseball and more about the experiences that surround baseball. This isn't a list of ERA's, this is a story of holding hands at a ballpark and thinking about eating a veggie dog from a street vendor after the game.

G-E says

Un excellent livre, presque poétique, qui met en lumière toute la beauté de ce sport.

Neil Gaudet says

Sure this is a book for baseball fans. And a rare one that isn't all about a single team or player. But it's also a well written masterpiece of literature. Small things like Marco Scuturo's foul ball become interesting. I enjoyed this book cover to cover. It was sadly too short. An instant baseball classic.

José Pedraza says

Una joyita que habla de baseball y la vida. Vale la pena si te gusta el baseball.

Mylène says

J'hésite entre donner 3 ou 4 étoiles... J'ai bien aimé les textes, mais j'ai trouvé le recueil en général assez répétitif. Les premiers textes étaient prometteurs, mais j'ai rapidement trouvé ma lecture redondante... Cela dit, l'écriture d'Andrew Forbes coule très bien. J'ai beaucoup aimé son style!

Marc says

Leave it up to a Canadian to publish a book that catches baseball in all its sadness and melancholy

Natalie says

Excellent! Proper review to come, Craig.

Clare says

This collection is uneven, as many are, but the parts I liked I liked a lot. Great writing, and especially the essays on the Blue Jays of 1992 WS and last year's run appealed to me on an emotional level.

The Master says

Boring.

René Paquin says

Courts textes sur le baseball écrits par un passionné!

Marisa Carpico says

The sentiments here can get a little repetitive by the end, but this is a fantastic collection for baseball fans and non-fans alike. Beautiful prose throughout and a really sincere depth of feeling. Love that Forbes approaches the subject from so many angles and talks about the glory and pain of fandom as much as the sport itself. Will definitely be giving this to a few people for Xmas.

Ian says

Highly recommended if you enjoy your sports writing a little more poetic and philosophical.

Leesa says

BLURBED IT/LOVED IT: "Baseball is a welcome obsession of mine, a comfort. Reading *The Utility of Boredom* by Andrew Forbes fed that obsession beautifully, warmly. It glows. He writes of baseball as sanctuary, baseball in both general terms and specifics—from the feeling of walking into a ballpark on a summer day to Vin Scully's perfect description of a cloud. He invites us to get on our tiptoes and peek over the fence, smell the grass, hear the crack of the bat. He respects the slow-glory of the game, he loves the game, he's really good at this, and I absolutely trust him with my baseball-heart."
