



Wild Pitch

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"Showtime" Charlie Stoddard blew out his phenomenal pitching arm- along with the rest of his life. Now, the only cheers he gets are from boozing and one-night stands-until a mysterious physical therapist hands him a second chance at the big time.

Wild Pitch Details

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Author : Mike Lupica

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From Reader Review Wild Pitch for online ebook

Anjali says

I really enjoyed this book, but if you don't love baseball, I don't think you'll like it. Just a warning to those who usually take 4 stars from me as a recommendation! :-)

Sean says

Although it wasn't a groundbreaking effort in the world of sports books, I generally enjoyed it as a classic redemption story of an old ball player that had been humbled trying to get a second chance.

Lori says

I can't help it -- I have an unexplainable crush of Mike Lupica. I love to watch him get so worked up that he stammers all over the SportsReporters set. (And I am not a sports fan in any than the most recreational form.) This one is fairly predictable but still damn fun. Especially if you can hear Lupica's voice in your head.

Paul says

This is a funny book, in two ways. Lupica has some good lines, and Wild Pitch is good-humoured all the way through. The really funny thing, though, is that he can concoct a storyline with few real surprises and make it work.

In one sense, this is nothing more than a feel-good come-back story: a retired has-been of a pitcher gets one more chance at the big leagues and along the way gets to make amends with his ex-wife and estranged son.

Lupica makes it work, however, with characters having enough humanity and intelligence to make you want the fairy tale to be true. There aren't any deep lessons or insights into the human condition, but it's a nice tale for all that.

Leigh says

Reading this book was like sitting through a rain delay, in extra innings, between two teams that haven't been in playoff contention since June. I didn't care what happened, I just wanted to be done.

I just could not get into the character enough to care about him. The book is also a bit dated, which may impact the story line. It was written when the Red Sox were still "losers." I think the main character is using "the cream," but that story line disappears when the trainer does. A review on the back says that it is a father-son story. But to me the son is not developed enough to make that an interesting story line. When I envision the son in my mind, he is wearing his ball cap low over his eyes - I just can't really see him. I got my little

cousin a children's book by Lupica for Christmas. I hope it is a better read than this one.

Mark says

A very entertaining read, filled with all kinds of sports jargon and baseball lore, but at its heart this is almost a mellerdrama! Showtime Charlie Stoddard, the main character, is a washed up has-been power pitcher who had one nearly perfect season and lost it all pitching in the World Series when he blew out his shoulder. He gets a chance to make a comeback through the near magical ministrations of a inscrutable physical therapist, named Chang. Add into the mix an ex-wife, a best friend now coaching the Boston Red Sox, and an estranged son who is the ace of the Red Sox staff and all the ingredients are there for a good old sports opera. It is well written and quite entertaining, but just a little too much a fairy tale for this reader. Lots of rollicking good fun is had by all, for sure, but the whole thing was just a little too pat. Charlie is the prince under the spell of the evil witch, his ex-wife the princess whose heart he needs to win, and Chang as the fairy godmother who breaks the spell. You see how it all becomes so trite when you break it down. Still, it was fun. It's got that going for it.

St-Michel says

Whatever, it's a sports book. If anything, this book taught me one thing - sports do not make for interesting reading.

Beth says

Sports fiction is not usually on my top ten list, but I was looking for a change of pace and this was on my husband's bookshelf, so I went for it. It was a very enjoyable read with a good story line and did make me laugh out loud at times.

A.J. Smith says

A fun read for any baseball fan. Lupica himself says it best. "The characters represented were not part of the '88 Mets team. But they should have been." Throw in a dose of the Red Sox curse (the book was written pre-2004), and you have a fun story you almost wish was true.

R.J. Murphy says

If you love baseball fiction this is the book for you. The story is about the crazy world of professional baseball. It is also about fathers and sons, forgiveness, love, redemption, and how to finally grow up. Showtime Charlie Stoddard thought his pitching career was over until he went to a specialist named Chang who fixed his backache and did an active release technique on his shoulder which took away years of pain. After more treatments pitching again becomes a real possibility for Charlie, but first he has to find a team

that will give him a second chance. To complicate things more, the son he has neglected for years is now a pro pitcher who wants nothing to do with him. There are a lot more complications and plenty of laughs. This was my first Mike Lupica book and I really enjoyed it.

2Vasudevan D says

In the beginning of the novel, Charlie "Showtime" Stoddard, is given the perception of a failure. He was going to be baseball legend, although a gruesome soldier injury seemed to be career ending. He has very little connection with his ex-wife, and his twenty year-old pretends Charlie isn't even alive. Although a fitness guru named Chang, starts to work with Charlie. Chang gives Charlie hope that he could possibly return to the big leagues. With hard work and dedication, Charlie gets back to MLB form.

Mike Lupica's realistic novels always seem to be a hit. They always have a combination of humor, suspense, seriousness, and many other aspects that make his stories great. And this is another example of his successful work of literature. The plot is so well thought out, and it always has a way to make the reader want to read more. The beginning was so realistic in the sense that, everything that occurred were day to day event. Then as the story progressed, the plot kept on getting better and the evolution of the characters were eminent.

Josh says

Bawdy and funny, with a good look inside the baseball clubhouse. It's fast and enjoyable.
