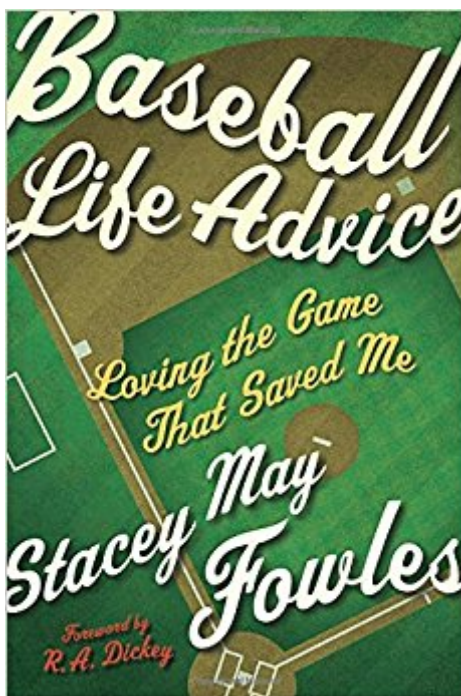




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# Baseball Life Advice: Loving The Game That Saved Me



## Synopsis

A passionate ode to baseball, its culture, and its community, which both celebrates and challenges the game. For Stacey May Fowles, the game of baseball is one of "long pauses punctuated by tiny miracles." In this entertaining and thoughtful book, Fowles gives us a refreshingly candid and personal perspective on subjects ranging from bat flips to bandwagoners, from the romance of spring training to the politics of booing, from the necessity of taking a hard look at players' injuries and mental health issues to finding solace at the ballpark. Fowles confronts head-on the stereotype that female fans lack real knowledge about the game, and also calls out the "boys will be boys" attitude and its implications both on and off the field. She also shares her reverence for the no-hitter, her memories of going to the ballpark with her dad, and the challenges of falling in love with someone who didn't like baseball. Throughout the book, she offers exhilarating snapshots of the Toronto Blue Jays' 2015 and 2016 seasons, and gathers a selection of inspiring "baseball life advice" quotes from players and others that provide unexpected insight into how we could all live better lives. With remarkable verve, intelligence, and an unabashed enthusiasm, Fowles explores how we can use the lens of baseball to examine who we are. And in this passionate ode to the game, its culture, and its community, she reminds us that although baseball can break your heart, it will always find a way to make it whole again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is beautiful. Stacey has used her own experiences at the ballpark to reveal what each

and every fan has felt but didn't know why. She captures what we all love about the game." -- Buck Martinez, author of *Change Up* and the play-by-play announcer for the Toronto Blue Jays

"Fowles' writing about her love of the game and the role of baseball in her life is honest, funny, touching, detailed, and charming. You do not need to be a sports fan or a baseball fan to enjoy this book; it is for anyone who appreciates beautiful writing, who has struggled to find their place in this world, or who has loved anything more than they can explain." -- Jessica Luther, author of *Unsportsmanlike Conduct*

"[Fowles] brings a perspective that's all too rare." -- *New York Times*

"By bringing a fresh voice to an old, staid game, everything seems new again. . . . [Baseball] fans anywhere will relate to her love of the ballpark as her 'favourite place in the world.'" -- *Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"Stacey May Fowles left me spellbound. These essays take the reader on a rich journey. She writes with such passion, and challenges us to look beyond the stat sheet in order to drink deeply from a game that is so much more than the players who play it." -- R.A. Dickey, from his Foreword

"A sharp, affecting meditation of the game and what its wins, walk-offs, losses, errors, injuries and (rarely) fights say about life. . . . Stacey May Fowles says this game saved her, and *Baseball Life Advice* might just return the favour right back to you." -- *National Post*

"Fowles has penned an instant classic on the grand old game with the heart of a true fan." -- *Post City*

"I defy any baseball fan to pick up this book and not find something they can relate to. . . . She ultimately crafts one of the best books about the game I've read in years. Baseball has so much to teach us if we let it, and in *Baseball Life Advice*, Stacey May Fowles gives readers just a taste of what the sport can bring to an open heart." -- *90feetfromhome.com*

"Fowles does an exceptional job of revealing how the game has made her whole, sharing incredibly personal insights and bringing topics to the table that deserve more light to be shed upon them, from a unique perspective. Mixing in the fun of spring training, the idea of the baseball gods and the power they hold, the magic of no-hitters and more, she opens the door to ideas to appeal to everyone. The book is one written for every fan." -- *The Hardball Times*

STACEY MAY FOWLES is an award-winning novelist, journalist, and essayist, and author of the popular *Baseball Life Advice* newsletter. She has written about sports for the *Globe and Mail*, *The Walrus*, *Blue Jays Nation*, *Torontoist*, the *National Post*, *Deadspin*, *Hazlitt*, and *Vice Sports*, among others. She has been a frequent guest on CBC Radio's *Metro Morning* and is a former member of Q's sports panel. She lives in Toronto.

One of the great pleasures in life for me is to speak with a knowledgeable woman about baseball.

Stacey May Fowles is such a person, and this book is a solid read: well-written, informative and full of the kind of musing that baseball fans love. She sent me to Youtube and Baseball Almanac several times during her discussion of Blue Jays players and plays (especially "The Catch") of which I had very little knowledge. I will disagree with her on several points though, especially on Bautista's so-called "bat flip." I still find that kind of stuff obnoxious and am not such a great fan either of players' open prayers to God every time they get a hit. That's pretty obnoxious, too. And, while we're at it, "The Catch" was pretty amazing, but, no, it isn't as great as Mays's catch in '54. Still, disagreeing is what fans do, and I can well imagine how enjoyable it would be to sit with her -- live -- within the friendly confines of any major league stadium and hear her thoughts on our National Pastime as the drama unfolds before our very eyes. My main criticism with this work is that the fine momentum of the book is often interrupted by Fowles's tendency to whine about the role of women reporters covering men's sports, and her inability to understand that she is an exceptional fan (kind of like a real-live version of Amy Adams in *The Trouble with the Curve*). My anecdotal evidence of fifty years of attending baseball games is that most women in the stands are rather inattentive to the details that Fowles describes so delightfully. I once went to a baseball game with a woman who brought along a book to read, when things got slow. Today, books have been replaced by iPhones, and any quick scan of any section of the ballpark will find women, children (and many, gasp, men!) focused more on their phones than on the game in front of them. I will say though, in her defense, that Fowles makes her point: there must be equal room at the park for all, and that my daughter is a keener fan than most men (when her boyfriend didn't like baseball, that was the end of the boyfriend!), and deserves a chance to sit in the park and enjoy the game, just like anyone else. Fowles is also absolutely correct about the healing power of The Game. The last meaningful conversations I had with my mother before she died were long discussions of the 1995 World Series, Braves vs. Indians. I treasure those conversations, and reading Fowles's essays brought it all back home to me in a gentle and positive way. Three cheers and a seventh-inning stretch for Stacey May Fowles, but I still say: Go Tigers!

ALL STACEY MAY FOWLES! ALL BASEBALL EVERYTHING! And I promise I'm not just saying this bc I am mentioned in this book aka "LEESA LOVES BASEBALL THIGHS!" These are my true-true feelings, Fowles writes abt baseball in the magical, important way it deserves. All love.

This is a beautifully written book. Fowles writes about the best and worst parts of baseball with wit, intelligence, and emotion. A must read for baseball fans of all genders.

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