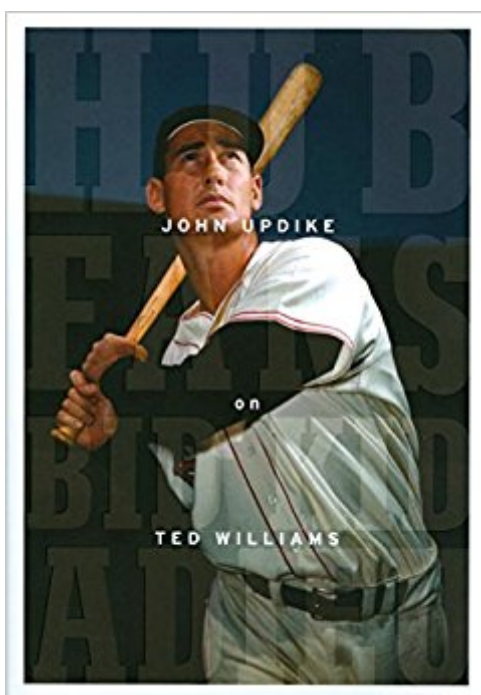


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Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu: John Updike On Ted Williams



Synopsis

On September 28, 1960—a day that will live forever in the hearts of fans—Red Sox slugger Ted Williams stepped up to the plate for his last at-bat in Fenway Park. Seizing the occasion, he belted a solo home run—a storybook ending to a storied career. In the stands that afternoon was 28-year-old John Updike, inspired by the moment to make his lone venture into the field of sports reporting. More than just a matchless account of that fabled final game, "Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu" is a brilliant evocation of Williams' competitive spirit, an intensity of dedication that still "crowds the throat with joy." Now, on the 50th anniversary of the dramatic exit of baseball's greatest hitter, The Library of America presents a commemorative edition of "Hub Fans," prepared by the author just months before his death. To the classic final version of the essay, long out-of-print, Updike added an autobiographical preface and a substantial new afterword. Here is a baseball book for the ages, a fan's notes of the very highest order.

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Customer Reviews

Praise through the decades for HUB FANS BID KID ADIEU "The most celebrated baseball essay ever." -Roger Angell "Updike on Williams is a stirring spectacle. Nothing he wrote can top this astonishing piece." -David Margolick "The greatest writer, in the greatest ballpark, on the greatest hitter who ever lived." -Dan Shaughnessy "No sportswriter ever wrote anything better." -Garrison Keillor "The piece that changed the way the sport is written. Updike made baseball the lyricist's game." -Peter Gammons "Updike was a baseball writer only once, yet he wrote the finest baseball story I know of. He and Ted Williams shared a singular ambition: to be the best that ever played the

game." -Richard Ben Cramer "It has the mystique." -Ted Williams

John Updike is the author of more than 60 books, including collections of short stories, poems, essays, and criticism. His novels won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle, and the Howells Medal, among other honors. He died in January 2009. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Spring always inspires with new beginnings, flowers in bloom, but also yesterday's experiences. John Updike writes all these elements and more in his short story and memoir of September 28, 1960. Updike's memoir of watching the legendary Ted "the kid" Williams's last game at Fenway Park as the Boston Red Sox played against the Baltimore Orioles. *Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu* is a re-publication of an article that originally appeared in the *New Yorker* in October 1960 but now appeared during the time of its publication, 2010 to commemorate 50 years after that historic moment in baseball history. For baseball aficionados or the curious, the story resonates and marks of a new horizon of Camelot and the 1960s and the end golden age of America's past time turning over to a new generation of players and events. The book and memoir specifically is a personal account on the part of Updike's love of the game that began as it does with many, as a child that continued well into adulthood. This shows within the opening passages of the book that is touching and succinct with only 47 pages of reflections and reminisces, especially, Updike recollects that moment in September when Williams walks on the field and the reaction that he observes from fans sitting right next to him of young and older fans from all walks of society and play by play of the game; this is displayed in the last ten pages of the book. Although the account is meant to be a detailed account, footnotes are also included to reprint an interesting biographical byline of the man and baseball player that began his careers at a young age of 18 years old and decided to call it a day by 42 years old. For readers that have touched upon so-called baseball literature by writers such as Bernard Malamud and his book *The Natural* or the legendary poem by Ernest Thayer "Casey at the Bat: The Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888," this story may also be placed slightly in the category. Much similar to writers that interweave their love for music or art, this is an interesting story that laments of the young at heart moments of adolescence that never grow old in adulthood, especially for the game of baseball.

As a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan I have probably read this beloved essay over a hundred times. Anyone like myself probably already has a collection of Red Sox and Ted Williams memorabilia but Updike has added enough new information about how the story originated to justify purchasing this classy "little bandbox" of a tome.

This "book" a New Yorker magazine essay written by John Updike prior to his being a published novelist captures a magnificent moment in time - Williams' last at bat at Fenway. It illuminates the man, the athlete, the greatness and the flaws in gorgeous language. I have so far ordered 30 of these and give them out as gifts to clients and friends who love the game regardless of their team affiliation. I keep buying them so as to never run out of stock. This is a treasure. Barbara Pickens

Thank you John. Great book

Great short book by a poetic John Updike. I have read at least 5 books about Ted Williams and this one ranks among the best even if it is really just about one day in the life of the great Ted Williams. For Ted Williams fans this book is a must.

Absolutely beautiful writing. A must for any Ted Williams fan.

If you only buy one non-fiction book on the game, this is the best written short piece around. True to form John Updike.

A short book, was very interesting. A few more insights into the great hitter.

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