

1924 and You Are There: A Fictionalized Baseball Replay



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Reviews

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(Chanelle Roob)

1924 AND YOU ARE THERE: A FICTIONALIZED BASEBALL REPLAY

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Grassy Gutter Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 280 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. An original, fictionalized replay of the 1924 baseball season, told in the language of the time, through the eyes and hearts of 17-year-old Phillies fan Vinny Spanelli, Tigers beat reporter Calvin J. Butterworth, and others. Meet all the stars of 24, from Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Ty Cobb, and Walter Johnson, to Goose Goslin, Kiki Cuyler, Zack Wheat, and Negro League greats Oscar Charleston and Rube Foster. Told in a daily diary format, *1924 and You Are There!* is a funny, heartwarming and unpredictable plunge into a bygone baseball era unlike any you've ever read. Still scarred from losing his father during the First World War, Vinny finds daily solace in attending Phillies games at the old, decrepit hitters paradise known as Baker Bowl. The Phils are pretty awful but Vinny is fiercely loyal to them, and with his best friend and ballgame companion Benny Zepp, heads up to New York in late April to watch them play the hated Giants and Brooklyn Robins. It's there that Vinny meets Rachel Stone, a literary-minded Jewish girl and rabid Brooklyn fan, and kindles a season-long courtship filled with giddy ups and downs. When Benny comes into some family money, he takes Vinny on a far west road trip in one of the first Chryslers, following the Phillies as they tour through Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis, and falling into trouble with a host of unsavory local characters. Back home, a quirk of fate finds Vinny becoming the Phillies batboy at the end of June, and the hot summer eventually gets hotter when he and Benny try to pull off an unheard-of exhibition series between white players and Negro League stars. Intertwined with occasional dispatches from Calvin...

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