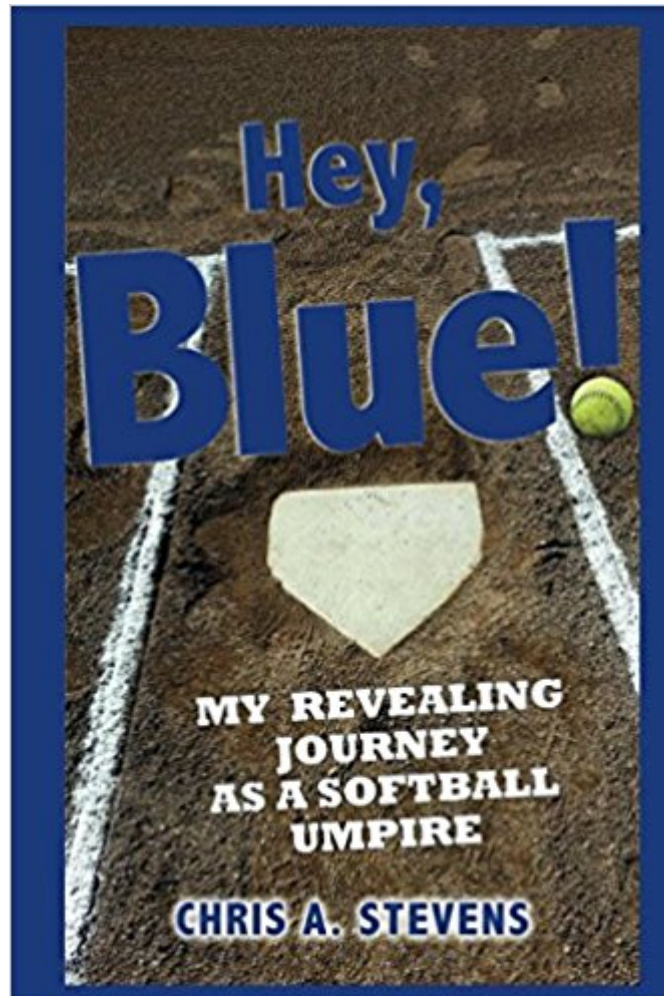




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Hey, Blue!: My Revealing Journey As A Softball Umpire



Synopsis

Chris A. Stevens, an award-winning journalist from Michigan, tells the interesting true tale of what it's like being a youth and high school softball umpire. But this is more than just a sports book. The author also talks about relationships, dealing with people, handling conflict, self-awareness and coping with serious adversity in his life and his hope for a brighter future. Stevens details face-to-face encounters with angry coaches, uplifting moments on the diamond, as well as embarrassing ones. The author discusses good partners and bad partners. Good coaches and bad coaches. He also writes about losing his cup on the field. The book includes the human element of what happens when a person does not guard their "hot buttons." It's a fun, fast-paced and enlightening read from a long-time journalist in the newspaper business. Stevens was in the newspaper business for more than 35 years. In recent years, he was twice named one of the top 10 sports columnists in the nation by the Associated Press Sports Editors (for circulations under 30,000). He also has won a number of writing awards from the Associated Press and Michigan Press Association during his career.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Superbly told story of a great man, doing what he loves and the challenges and hurdles in his way.
Wonderful

Entertaining and insightful. A good read whether or not you are interested in softball.

Fantastic, feel good book. Having umpired myself years ago, I felt like I was right back calling balls

and strikes alongside Chris. He perfectly captures the ups and downs of being an ump-- the conflict, the rush, the quiet satisfaction of playing a role in a contest between elite athletes. His writing style is forthright and genuine, in the mold of Mitch Albom. Chris's many years as a sportswriter comes through in the quality of the prose: precise, easy to follow. I read the whole book in just a few sittings. Each chapter had its own unique appeal, but if I had to single out favorites, they would be those portraying Chris umpiring his own daughter, and the final pages where he's forced to overcome adversity. (I won't spoil the read by telling what that adversity is ...) These sections really brought me into Chris's world and made me root for him. Throughout the book, Chris comes across as the type of fellow you'd love to sit next to during a ballgame. Observant. Kind. Humble. If you're looking for a peek inside the world of softball umpiring-- or just feel like hanging out some with a bright guy and his hobby-- absolutely pick up this title. You'll be glad you did.

It's a good read for a sports fan or a non-sports fan. If you like sports, you can appreciate the author's passion for softball and for umpiring. And if you're not that much into sports, you can enjoy how he writes about how he relates to fellow umpires, players, coaches and players' parents. Plus, the book's additional theme of dealing with adversity and rising above it makes it transcend the sports genre. The bottom line is, it's a fun read.

Like I said above is recommended this to people who would like to learn more about being an umpire. .

A transparent, behind-the-scenes look at umpiring that weaves life lessons throughout.

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