



The Curious Case of Sidd Finch

George Plimpton , Jonathan Ames (Preface)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Curious Case of Sidd Finch

George Plimpton , Jonathan Ames (Preface)

The Curious Case of Sidd Finch George Plimpton , Jonathan Ames (Preface)

In April 1985, Sports Illustrated published an article that stunned the sports community. George Plimpton's 13-page profile of Sidd Finch, a mysterious pitcher who had been signed by the New York Mets and reportedly threw 168 mph, came complete with photos from spring training, scouting reports, and interviews with Mets players and management. A week later, SI apologized to readers around the world for their role in what is generally regarded as the greatest hoax in the history of sports journalism. The magazine had teamed up with the legendary author and Paris Review bon vivant for an April Fool's Day prank of unprecedented proportions. After the success of the article, Plimpton decided to turn the story into a novel — a rousing baseball fairy tale that is considered one of the most memorable sports novels of the last half-century.

The Curious Case of Sidd Finch Details

Date : Published March 15th 2004 by Da Capo Press (first published 1987)

ISBN : 9781568582962

Author : George Plimpton , Jonathan Ames (Preface)

Format : Paperback 296 pages

Genre : Sports, Baseball, Sports and Games, Fiction, Humor, Comedy, Writing, Journalism, Literature

 [Download The Curious Case of Sidd Finch ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Curious Case of Sidd Finch ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Curious Case of Sidd Finch George Plimpton , Jonathan Ames (Preface)

From Reader Review The Curious Case of Sidd Finch for online ebook

Caroline says

Excellent summer reading!

Sure, the plot kind of meandered, but I found *The Curious Case of Sidd Finch* to be a completely charming book.

I thoroughly enjoyed the main characters of Sidd, Debbie Sue, and Owl and thought the whimsy that infused the novel was just delightful. I also appreciated that Plimpton did research on his whimsy - many of the people mentioned in the novel, such as the horn player Dennis Brain and minor league pitcher Steve Dalkowski, were real people, which I got a kick out of. Also, apparently Lung-gom is also a real thing in Tibetan lore, so kudos to Plimpton for doing his homework there too.

The whole book just made me smile. Glad I read it.

Scott Breslove says

Very interesting read. Fact blended with fiction. I really don't even know how to review it. I enjoyed it thoroughly, literally laughing out loud at some parts, but also quickly skimming other parts that got just too in depth. I really want to pick up a copy of the original Sports Illustrated article and read that. Very enjoyable for any sports fan I'd say, and it didn't hurt for me that it was based around the Mets!

Marie says

The Curious Case of Sidd Finch was about an usual man who could throw an amazing pitch! His story was in Sports Illustrated and later said to be an April Fool's joke. Then it was made into a book. It was interesting to learn about being a Buddhist and how he wouldn't do anything against his principles. I'd recommend it to anyone that enjoys baseball!

Don says

George Plimpton got me. It was April Fools' morning, 1985 - listening to Boston DJ Charles Laquidara's "The Big Mattress" on WBCN, as I was shaving, getting ready for another mundane day at a very boring job. Charles started speaking right after a song, exalting my team, The New York Mets and how they just pulled off a coup, signing a reclusive, Tibetan Monk who threw a 168 M.P.H. fastball! This was on the heels of a 90 win season and days away from Gary Carter starting at Catcher, following his trade from The Expos - an embarrassment of riches. The elaborate hoax, was the result of Plimpton's feature article in Sports Illustrated; SI and Plimpton let it run its course for two weeks, finally acknowledging what they had pulled off.

The ruse was so elaborate, in fact, that the sub-heading of the article read: "He's a pitcher, part yogi and part

recluse. Impressively liberated from our opulent life-style, Sidd's deciding about yoga — and his future in baseball." The first letters of these words spell out "Happy April Fools Day - ah(a) fib". The positive reaction prompted Plimpton to write this book, which was released two years later in 1987.

Far from a literary masterpiece, baseball fans, nevertheless, will enjoy this read. It is a quirky, funny novel that allows the reader's imagination to participate. Being a life-long Mets' fan, and given the resultant roller-coaster ride it has taken me on for fifty years, I have grown accustomed to the odd, the strange and the unexpected - on that score, Plimpton doesn't disappoint.

On the advent of both the 2013 baseball season and April Fools (on which day the Mets begin this season), you may enjoy dusting off this very funny book.

Kate Wutz says

Even though I'm not a huge baseball fan, I loved this book! George Plimpton does so much with the ideas of Buddhism, baseball, post-traumatic stress disorder...and it's all laugh-out-loud-in-the-library funny.

Bmj2k says

Sigh, back when I wasn't emabarrassed to be a Mets fan...

Elwood D Pennypacker says

Finding this book in a box outside a Brooklyn library, left by someone who clearly from the contents were shedding their collection, one would suspect the box was full of sports books or maybe whimsical fiction and non-fiction. No. The box was a melange of Lost Generation, Beats, Punk and... Buddhist and Daoist tracts. That last genre is where this book comes in.

Though I am a Yankees fan, I always enjoy any reference to Mookie Wilson, so I enjoyed it.

Alex Decker says

Look if you are looking for some literary masterpiece, look elsewhere. If you are looking for a good summer read, then you might find one here. The book centers on Sidd Finch, a Buddhist Monk, who comes to America to try to play baseball. He has a fastball that is unlike any other in history, and the quarkiness of the leftiest of leftys. I recommend it because it is fun. Highly improbable, especially in this day in age where everyone is a reporter and has a blog and a cell phone, but enjoyable still.

Marissa says

A real charmer - quirky, clever and very interesting!

Ron says

Plimpton turned out to be a delightful surprise to me with one of the funniest and most clever novels ever written about the sporting world and its peculiar madness, offering strange insights into Zen that made me aware that the gas jockey who coached my little league team had secretly imparted such lessons to me at a very young age.

Brandon says

I gave this book multiple chances. Unfortunately, I couldn't get through it. The characters aren't all that compelling. The narrator has a dreary, almost personally-less presence. Sidd, who is featured on the title, is seen in almost passing glances. And the plot line is plodding. You are sort of left wondering if anything interesting is ever going to happen. It's hard to cheer anyone on. And I can't really see a reason why to recommend this book.

Oliver Hodson says

I loved it. Robert temple, the writer in the story was personally washed in baseball and life nostalgia, and sidd finch was a nuke lalouche of otherworldly talent and the whole thing was wrapped up in a layer of sensitivity and joy that was just the best. It was quietly funny which made it an extremely well pitched book-not going for too much but having fun the whole time. Super.

Anthony says

Originally an April Fool's Day Hoax article written by Plimpton and published by Sports Illustrated with the aid of the New York Mets, after seeing the public's response George Plimpton turned it into a novel.

As a lover of baseball I fell in love with this novel, and the character of Sidd Finch. Throughout this book it discusses the effect that such a talent would have on the game of baseball, and then it shows us. I think that discussion is a fitting comparison for what the steroids era has done to baseball. The only difference is that Sidd Finch had a purity and honesty too him. He had respect. These are things that few players today seem to have. They are greedy, look out for #1, steroid juiced, behemoths. I'd rather read this book than watch a ball game today. I recommend this book to those who are still in love, or want to be in love, with the game of baseball.

Jesse says

Perhaps my all-time fave baseball book. About a Buddhist monk pitching for the '85 Mets who learned to throw ~150 mph fastballs by tossing rocks at yaks.

Drew Patty says

Well, alas, it was as I feared. The hype about the book was more than the book could deliver.

The foreword by Jonathan Ames was delightful, and I especially appreciated that the publishers decided to include the original Sports Illustrated article at the end.

The book itself, however, fails in several ways. The most glaring of all is the lack of veracity regarding the game of baseball -- particularly, the "perfect" game of baseball. A perfect game, as any good fan knows, involves the pitcher facing the minimum of batters. But it also involves none of those batters reaching base, whether through error or a hit-by-pitch, etc. (For example, if you've faced the minimum 24 batters through 8 innings, then hit the leadoff hitter in the ninth inning, only to get the next batter to ground into a double-play, you no longer are in the running for a perfect game. You're simply one out away from pitching a no-hitter and a nearly perfect game.)

The main character, Sidd Finch, is enjoyable in the same way Alyosha is enjoyable to read about in *The Brothers Karamazov*. He is, in some ways, a minor god walking among men. And his reactions to certain "humanly" things is hilarious.

But ... the narrator and the female lead character are lacking. The bulk of the baseball players get glommed together as one unit. And the amount of baseball actually discussed in the book is seriously lacking. True, in the movie "Run Lola Run" the main character is actually only running for a few minutes total. Happily, the slower parts of that movie still move events forward. The slower parts of this book seem to idle, and as a reader, idling is OK if you're reading (and skipping ahead in) Tolkien. But for a more modern book, a reader like me hopes for more of interest to occur.

Ultimately, I would recommend this book for true baseball aficionados (with the caveat about the "perfect" game misnomer). Otherwise, I think the SI article sufficed, and a longer book didn't need to be fleshed out from this gem. To go the wrong direction with a metaphor: Some gems just look better uncut.
