



Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston

By Howard Bryant



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With a new introduction by celebrated baseball writer Roger Kahn and a new afterword by the author, updating John Henry's first year of ownership after nearly six decades of the Yawkey dynasty, the legacy of the late Will McDonough, and the author's return to his native Boston after a seventeen-year absence, *Shut Out* has reopened the discussion of baseball, race, and Boston with a new candor.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The Boston Red Sox' inability to win the World Series is one of the most familiar oddities in sport; the club's peculiar relationship with race is not quite so well known. Bryant, who's covered the Oakland A's and the New York Yankees for daily newspapers, brings excellent journalistic instincts and baseball smarts to the table. And he's a Boston native to boot, meaning he's properly versed about the city that former Celtic hero Bill Russell once called "a flea market of racism." Bryant examines looks at Jackie Robinson's doomed Fenway tryout in 1945 and at Pumpsie Green, who eventually became the Red Sox' first black player, a full dozen years after Robinson broke the color barrier. An unspectacular player, Green was befriended on the field by Ted Williams and by Russell off, as both tried to shield him from the pervasive vitriol. Bryant visits the modern era as well, reporting that the Sox did not sign a black free agent until 1993, and detailing slugger Mo Vaughn's mercurial stint in Boston. An MVP in 1995, the New England-reared Vaughn embraced his role in the race debate, even wearing Robinson's old number. Bryant illustrates both the ballplayer's dedication to community service and his repeated run-ins with the law, and wonders if Vaughn was run out of town by the press and team management. Throughout the book, Bryant looks at both sides of the race issue, and backs his conclusions with exhaustive research from a variety of sources.

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From Library Journal

This important study by sportswriter Bryant examines the race relations of one of baseball's most storied teams, the Boston Red Sox, from the early 1930s to the present. During most of that period, the Red Sox were owned by the Yawkee family, taken to task here for their insensitivity regarding race or outright racism. So, too, is Boston, notwithstanding its reputation as "a cradle of liberty." Bryant relays the seldom-told story of Jackie Robinson's April 1945 tryout with the team, which resulted in someone (possibly owner Tom Yawkee) booming out a racial epithet. Having passed on Robinson, the Red Sox did the same with Willie Mays. The franchise was the last to include an African American player on its roster, utility infielder Pumpsie Green. Unlike Green, outfielder Reggie Smith challenged racial norms while with Boston and paid the price. The team's, and Boston's, relationship with other black stars, including Jim Rice and Ellis Burks, was also troubled. Even Luis Tiant, the heart and soul of the mid-1970s Red Sox, was hardly treated better by the team in contractual negotiations. Only recently have black players (such as Pedro Martinez) felt more welcomed. For general libraries.

R.C. Cottrell, California State Univ., Chico

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From [Booklist](#)

Boston has always been a city sharply divided along ethnic lines, and for years the resulting turmoil was reflected in its baseball team. The Red Sox were the last team in major-league baseball to be integrated, and their refusal to sign black athletes was a major factor in the team's postwar mediocrity. But even as black players joined the Red Sox, their Boston experience was often less than pleasant, especially during the 1970s, when the city was embroiled in a bitter busing battle. Bryant, who has written extensively on baseball and race, tracks the progress of the Red Sox organization through extensive interviews with players and others team employees. He concludes that, though the team has made progress--race relations within the organization are probably on a par with most other major-league teams today--there are still black players, including Ellis Burks, who played in Boston in the 1990s, who believe that the community remains distinctly inhospitable to players of color. A carefully researched contribution to the social history of baseball. *Wes*

Lukowsky

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold McDonough:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Typically the Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Mark Montague:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information currently can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a problem. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you have it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston as the daily resource information.

Pearl Miller:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Donna Johnson:

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pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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