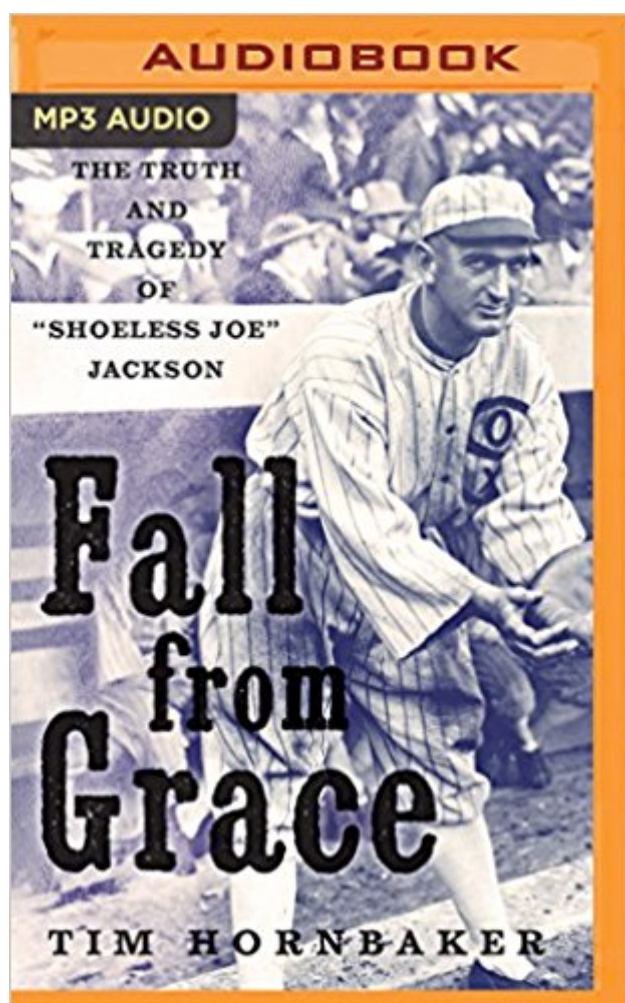




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Fall From Grace: The Truth And Tragedy Of "Shoeless Joe" Jackson



Synopsis

Considered by Ty Cobb as the “finest natural hitter in the history of the game,” “Shoeless Joe” Jackson is ranked with the greatest players to ever step onto a baseball diamond. With a career .356 batting average—which is still ranked third all-time—the man from Pickens County, South Carolina, was on his way to becoming one of the greatest players in the sport’s history. That is until the “Black Sox” scandal of 1919, which shook baseball to its core. While many have sympathized with Jackson’s ban from baseball (even though he hit .375 during the 1919 World Series), not much is truly known about this quiet slugger. Whether he participated in the throwing of the World Series or not, he is still considered one of the game’s best, and many have fought for his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. From the author of *Turning the Black Sox White* (on Charles Comiskey) and *War on the Basepaths* (on Ty Cobb), *Fall from Grace* tells the story of the incredible life of Joseph Jefferson Jackson. From a mill boy to a baseball icon, author Tim Hornbaker breaks down the rise and fall of “Shoeless Joe,” giving an inside look during baseball’s Deadball Era, including Jackson’s personal point of view of the “Black Sox” scandal, which has never been covered before.

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Customer Reviews

"Fall from Grace: The Truth and Tragedy of “Shoeless Joe” Jackson helps flesh out that portrait and add context to the actions of a player who was banned from baseball for life for his part in the scheme. . . . Hornbaker patiently presents the evidence and invites the reader to become

the jury." — Paul Hagen, MLB.com "Hornbaker breathes fresh life into the character and motivations of baseball legend Shoeless Joe Jackson in detailing his tragic plunge from stardom to infamy for his ambiguous role in fixing the 1919 World Series. His haunting portrait of one of the game's most controversial and complex figures also provides a balanced and insightful addition to the everlasting reexaminations of the greatest scandal in the game's long history." — David Nemec, novelist, baseball historian, and author of *The Beer and Whiskey League*, and *Major League Baseball Profiles: 1871–1900* "Tim Hornbaker has written an engaging biography of a different era in Chicago baseball history. *Fall from Grace* is a delight. It is an anecdote-rich story reminding us repeatedly of what we have come to love about baseball. After reading this thoughtful and informative biography, readers may take a somewhat more charitable view of Shoeless Joe Jackson." — Stuart Shiffman, *Illinois Times* --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Tim Hornbaker is a lifelong sports historian and enthusiast. His book *Turning the Black Sox White: The Misunderstood Legacy of Charles A. Comiskey* was received with critical acclaim, and he resides in Tamarac, Florida.

I played baseball as a kid. I understand the game. I loved baseball. I still love watching baseball. I am a Chicago Cubs fan, so 2016 was a momentous year for me. I now live in Greenville, South Carolina after living my entire life in Iowa. Anyone who knows baseball knows that the famous Shoeless Joe Jackson was born, grew up, and lived most of his life in Greenville. As an avid baseball fan, I have always been fascinated by the 1919 Chicago White Sox World Series scandal which led to the terms "Black Sox" and "8 Men Out." So I thought it was about time that I read a well-researched book about the "fixing" of that World Series and Shoeless Joe Jackson's association with the events which have kept him out of Cooperstown. Tim Hornbaker did a masterful job of holding my attention from start-to-finish. This "dead ball" era of baseball included some of the greatest men to ever play the game of baseball: Jackson, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Babe Ruth, and Honus Wagner. Shoeless Joe's regular season statistics alone qualified him for the Hall of Fame, but, unfortunately, he was caught up in a dishonorable, illegal situation; even if he maintained his innocence until his death in 1951, the bottom line was that he suffered the natural, logical, and tragic consequences of that association. In the scandal's best light, he was naive and foolish; in the worst, dishonorable, greedy, and narcissistic. I give him the benefit of the doubt. After reading Hornbaker's book, I would conclude he was a kind, thoughtful, loving man who unfortunately got

caught up in a mess which forever stained his baseball reputation. If you love baseball and an excellently-documented real-life thriller, I would encourage you to read **FALL FROM GRACE: THE TRUTH AND TRAGEDY OF SHOELESS JOE JACKSON**.

Very enjoyable read about an almost mythical sports figure. Fall from Grace chronicles the life of Shoeless Joe Jackson, presenting a fair and balanced examination of his career and his culpability in the Black Sox Scandal. The writing style is compact and efficient, and the book is thoroughly researched and footnoted. In some stretches it reads more like a dissertation than traditional sports narrative, but while it doesn't deliver the flavor of the era like Ritter's *The Glory of Their Times*, it is a thoroughly enjoyable read.

This isn't the first biography of Joe Jackson but I believe it is the one that is most complete. Author Tim Hornbaker includes a great deal of information regarding Jackson's career with the Cleveland Indians and it isn't until approximately page 150 that the book deals with the birth of the Black Sox conspiracy. Hornbaker realizes that much of this scandal is still not known nor probably ever will be. What was Jackson's role in this fiasco? He was guilty. He took \$5,000.00 and wondered where the other \$15,000.00 was that he was promised. He was the leading hitter in the series and may have played to win but he did admit his guilt and then recanted his confession. Yes, Jackson was naive and was sucked into the scandal by Arnold "Chick" Gandil who planned to retire at the end of the year anyway and wanted to supplement his retirement with a nice nest egg from the gamblers. We are left to wonder what would Jackson's future have been had the Indians not been strapped for cash and needed to deal Jackson away. It's too bad he was dealt to the Pale Hose, a team made up of separate cliques. Maybe things would have been changed had there not been a festering feud between Sox' owner Charles Comiskey and American League President Ban Johnson. I have two letters I received from J. G. Taylor Spink, publisher of *The Sporting News* and one of the official scorers of the 1919 World Series and a personal friend of Joe Jackson. Spink states, "They were all guilty." Author Hornbaker has written very interesting books on White Sox owner Charles Comiskey and Ty Cobb and he has added another worthy addition to anyone's baseball library with this volume on Joe Jackson. The book contains sixteen pages of photographs many of which I haven't seen before.

I first heard about Shoeless Joe Jackson when I was a boy and over the years would hear his name mentioned from time to time. The "Field of Dreams" movie brought the name back again. Recently, I

watched the movie again and it made me curious so I looked up books on him and this seemed the best. It was a good read and very interesting. I had no idea that he was as great a ballplayer as he was. To be on a par with Ty Cobb and to have influenced the likes of Babe Ruth is impressive. So is his .356 lifetime batting average. He was an interesting character off the field, too. This book covers so many facets of Jackson's life. Knowing his stats in baseball and his impact on the game and the company he kept made it all the more tragic that he was banned from the game. One can only imagine what he could have accomplished, given a full career. I was disappointed in a sense and held back a star because I expected the book to present facts that exonerated Jackson regarding the 1919 World Series fix. Evidence on both sides is presented. Exoneration could not get back the career Jackson missed but it could have him recognized by Cooperstown. It's a shame that a player of his abilities and achievements is remembered more for one ill-advised act than for the years of productivity on the field.

I gave this book to my husband as a gift. He is really enjoying reading it. A nice choice for baseball fans interested in Shoeless Joe Jackson.

A meticulously researched look at a icon. If you are interested in shoeless joe jackson and the black sox you will enjoy this book. As always the truth is complicated and Mr. Jackson was neither a hero or a villain.

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