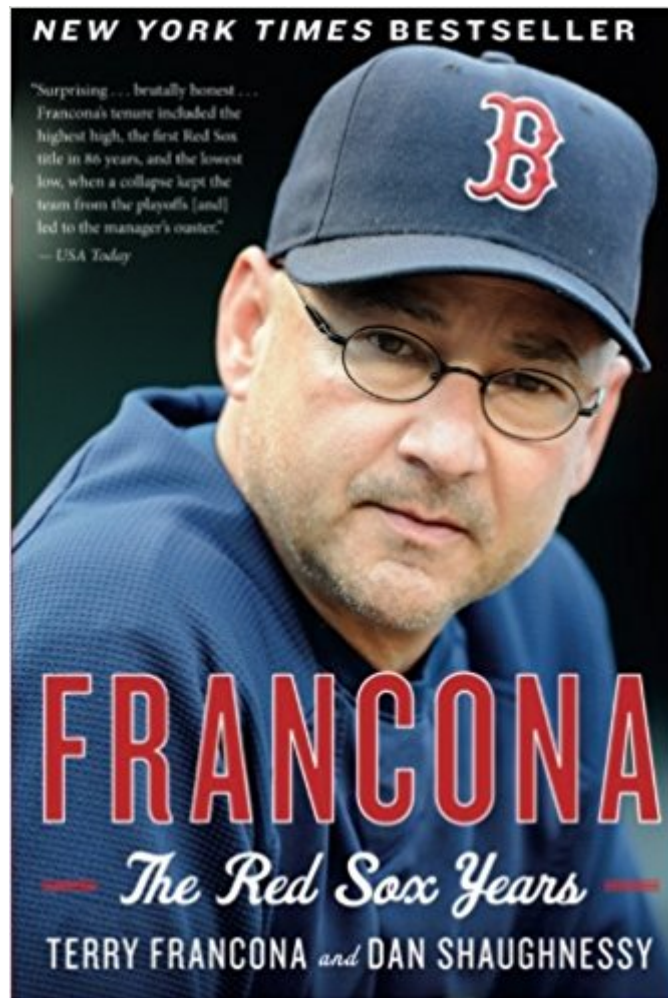


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Francona: The Red Sox Years



Synopsis

"This is the best book looking inside the mind of a big-league manager I have ever read, because Francona is sharp and loves the game, because Shaughnessy is eloquent and a dazzling storyteller." —Philadelphia Daily News

When Terry Francona took over as manager of the Boston Red Sox in 2004, the storied franchise hadn't won a World Series championship in eighty-six years. Led by Francona, the team won two over the course of four years. During the full eight years of Francona's tenure, the Red Sox were transformed from a cursed into one of the most successful and profitable teams in baseball history only to fall back to last place as soon as Francona was gone.

Francona: The Red Sox Years lets readers in on the inner workings of the Red Sox clubhouse like no book has ever done before. From the highs of the World Series to the lows of the final months of the 2011 season—the most epic collapse of a team in baseball history—this book features the never-before-told stories about Sox fans' favorite players, moments, wins, and losses. A scorched-earth memoir . . . [that] touches fleetingly on steroid use, sabermetrics, and Michael Jordan's stint in the minor leagues . . . but saves its heaviest artillery for the owners . . . [and] Theo Epstein backs him up.

—New York Times Book Review

It's not often that baseball aficionados and gossip gluttons can plunk down on a shared portion of outfield grass with the same book for an afternoon of readerly delight, but Francona can bridge those kinds of differences.

—Boston Globe

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

21st century databases merely verify what baseball fans already knew in 1959: Tito Francona was

one hot baseball player. He hit an eye popping .363, swatted 20 homeruns, and had 79 RBI's; good enough for 5th place in the MVP balloting that year. That same year, a son Terry (Little Tito) was born, and now Tito Francona has another feather in his cap. Francona: The Red Sox Years is dedicated to him. Little Tito turned out to be a pretty good ballplayer himself until he blew out both his knees running into walls and avoiding baseline tags. But the story in this book is more than a Red Sox story. This is a book about baseball culture, the way the business side works, the way baseball relationships are built, nurtured, and how they endure through the years. People in baseball remember things, remember how you perform, remember your attitude. This is also a book about fathers, their sons, and the women who love them, stick with them, and help achieve a meaningful outcome. It's full of quirky quotes - one of the most memorable gets told by Terry Francona himself - about his own mother no less, and on Page 32 (Koufax' number) we get: "She was the perfect mom. She was a saint. I am still trying to figure out how she got pregnant." That's the kind of book this is, iconoclastic, irreverent, but above all, readable. Dan Shaughnessy tracks down people who knew Terry Francona and knew his father. Tim McCarver weighs in with the intonation of Scripture: "Tito Francona could kill a low pitch"...and "there was nothing executive about the Executive Apartments Terry used to live in.

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