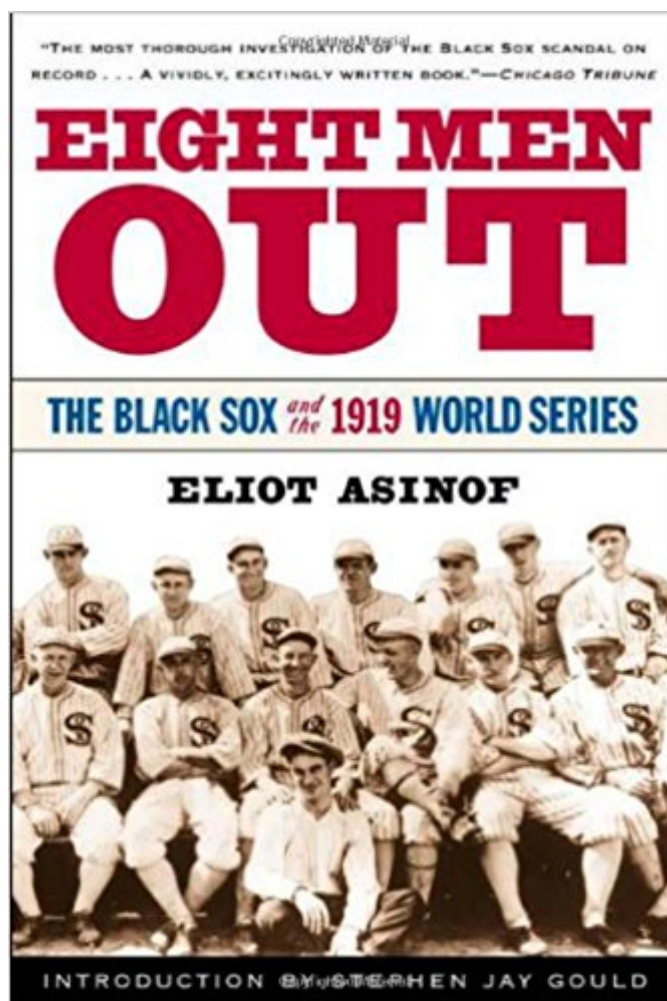


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Eight Men Out: The Black Sox And The 1919 World Series



Synopsis

The headlines proclaimed the 1919 fix of the World Series and attempted cover-up as "the most gigantic sporting swindle in the history of America!" First published in 1963, *Eight Men Out* has become a timeless classic. Eliot Asinof has reconstructed the entire scene-by-scene story of the fantastic scandal in which eight Chicago White Sox players arranged with the nation's leading gamblers to throw the Series in Cincinnati. Mr. Asinof vividly describes the tense meetings, the hitches in the conniving, the actual plays in which the Series was thrown, the Grand Jury indictment, and the famous 1921 trial. Moving behind the scenes, he perceptively examines the motives and backgrounds of the players and the conditions that made the improbable fix all too possible. Here, too, is a graphic picture of the American underworld that managed the fix, the deeply shocked newspapermen who uncovered the story, and the war-exhausted nation that turned with relief and pride to the Series, only to be rocked by the scandal. Far more than a superbly told baseball story, this is a compelling slice of American history in the aftermath of World War I and at the cusp of the Roaring Twenties.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“The most thorough investigation of the Black Sox scandal on record ... A vividly, excitingly written book.” —*Chicago Tribune*
“Dramatic detail ... an admirable journalistic feat.” —*The New York Times*
“As thrilling as a cops and robbers tome.” —*The Boston Globe*

"As Jackson departed from the Grand Jury room, a small boy clutched at his sleeve and tagged along after him. 'Say it ain't so, Joe,' he pleaded. 'Say it ain't so.'" But to the horror of the entire nation -- it was. The headlines proclaimed the 1919 fix of the World Series and attempted cover-up as "the most gigantic sporting swindle in the history of America!" In this timeless classic, Eliot Asinof has reconstructed the entire story of the infamous scandal in which eight Chicago White Sox players arranged with the nation's leading gamblers to throw the Series to Cincinnati. Scene by scene, he vividly describes the tense meetings, the hitches in the conniving, the actual plays in which the Series was thrown, the Grand Jury indictment, and the famous 1921 trial. Further, he perceptively examines the motives and backgrounds of the players and the conditions that made the improbable fix all too possible. Here, too, is a graphic picture of the American underworld that managed the fix, the deeply shocked newspapermen who uncovered the story, and the war-exhausted nation that turned with relief and pride to the Series, only to be rocked by the scandal. Far more than a superbly told baseball story, this compelling American drama will appeal to all those interested in the history of American popular culture.

If you love sports history, you must read this book. The film of the same name is pleasant entertainment, but not a definitive account of what happened. This book is. The 1919 World Series scandal was as mysterious as it was destructive. Players were coerced into testimony with the promise of immunity and then indicted based on that testimony. Owners colluded. DAs cheated and lied. Statements were given and then reversed. Pages of testimony and written confessions were lost forever. Through exhaustive research, Asinof was able to piece together from several incomplete records and sources a complete timeline and blow by blow account of the entire scandal. While the movie focuses on "innocent" players who had had enough of being cheated by their evil penny-pinching owner, the book portrays a more even and complete story. Yes, Comisky was cheap and certainly not well-liked by his players, but several of the "eight" needed very little encouraging to take what they thought would be easy money. The book shows in detail how the players (even those who wanted to do the right thing and confess) were railroaded by overzealous prosecutors and baseball owners desperate to protect their investments. This is required reading for any Chicago sports fan. This story shows just how crooked baseball was in those early days. The 1919 World Series was only one of dozens of known "fixed" games in the early 20th century. And, a special note to Cubs fans (like me) who enjoy holding this scandal over our downtown rivals - the Cubbies threw plenty of games themselves, and there are plenty of pages devoted to it here.

I have long been a fan of both baseball and had seen...more than once...the movie "Eight Men Out." Every time the film showed up on Comcast's schedule, I would watch it. I realized that I needed to know more than what a movie shows. So I read the book. Wow, what great writing! A fascinating look at what a limited-by-time constraints movie just can't present. If you love baseball history or are at all curious about the story of the "Black Sox" I highly recommend Asinof's book. Even if you don't "know" baseball, it's a great read about greed, the pitfalls of our legal system "back in the day," and how otherwise honest, but naive, human beings can be manipulated.

Others have reviewed it thoroughly, so I will just say that this is a must read for anyone who truly appreciates the game of Baseball. I don't know how I missed it for so many years. This story gave me insight into the history of the game that I didn't know I was missing. It's a sad story with a sad ending but definitely a worthwhile book for any Baseball fan. Highly recommend.

A very well written book about the 1919 World Series and Gambling in Baseball. Since most of the first person research is no longer available, Asinof had to cobble together a narrative, which does tell the story, but seems a little stitched together in areas. That being said, I believe the story is an important one, since the aftermath represents a sort of loss of innocence for the US and athletics. It is also a tragic story of a handful of players, including Weaver and Jackson, who were kicked out without having really participated at all in the fix. Gambling seems to be the unforgivable sin of baseball, while cheating, such as using performance enhancers only gets a suspension. And other than these 8 ballplayers and Pete Rose, everyone else banned from the game were reinstated. This is an important story that anyone who loves baseball should read. It was also made into a movie, which was very well done, though condensed.

The story of the 1919 Chicago "Blacksox" is a microcosm of America, in my opinion. Asinof does a Wonderful job of giving you not only the major players but their backgrounds as well. He also does an excellent job of recreating what it was like in the 1900's world of Major League Baseball. The story is told with a richness of detail, and also the devotion/heartbreak of a "fan". I bought this book because I have loved the movie for decades, and decided to check the source material. I was thoroughly rewarded with a rich toem, full of feeling and detail. The story contains Gamblers, ballplayers, and other celebrities from 1900's America. The Gambler Arnold Rothstein (Boardwalk Empire) is a fascinating figure, as are the players, owners, and newsmen who are at the heart of

this story. Eight Men Out is sympathetic to the ballplayers without ever excusing them for their betrayal of trust. At the end the reader gets a great tale, but also a reminder that, it is not always the talent you have that matters, but the money!!!! btw for the people who question the authors facts, much like the Kennedy assassination, this is a part of history that is very muddled lies and double crosses abounded, so for everything he got wrong(or indulged) there are a 100 details that paint a very true scene, and ultimately it is up to the reader to decide who they blame and who they forgive!!!

Eight Men Out is one of my favorite movies, but there is so much more in the book, which is not uncommon. If you like baseball, then you'll probably like this book.

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