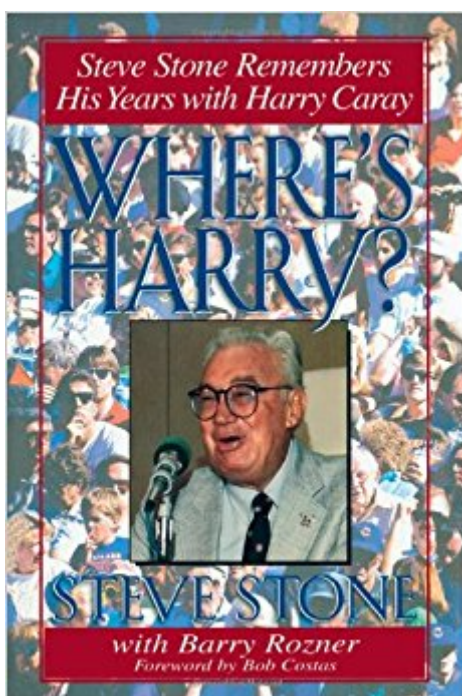


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Where's Harry?: Steve Stone Remembers 25 Years With Harry Caray



Synopsis

A friend of the legendary sportscaster for more than 20 years, Stone regales readers with hundreds of stories about the baseball icon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Innocuous anecdotes and remembrances abound in this valentine to the legendary sports broadcaster Harry Caray. Stone worked alongside Caray for 15 years, offering color commentary for Chicago Cubs baseball games, until Caray's death in February 1998. Stone obviously enjoyed the experience, deferring to Caray's antics and malapropisms the way one would an eccentric uncle or spoiled but talented child. Stone claims in the introduction that he wanted to give a clearer picture of Caray the man, rather than Caray the broadcaster, but the book, co-written with Rozner (a sports columnist and co-author of Ryne Sandberg's autobiography *Second to Home*, not reviewed) avoids deep insight or controversy by offering sketchy biographic facts about Caray: he was born Harry Christopher Carabina, was orphaned at a young age, grew up impoverished, and had an active nightlife, three marriages, and health problems. The book's focus is on snapshots of Caray at work and at play (often with stars, from Mickey Mantle to Elvis). The most amusing stories demonstrate Caray's abilities as master showman and promoter in the broadcast booth (he mentioned as many fans' names as possible in order to "make some friends and sell more tickets and get better ratings"). And while Caray-isms (such as "There's danger here Cheri!" or "The big possum walks late") may not be as famous as Yogi Berra-isms (although Caray is credited here with originating the "Holy Cow" cry), they do demonstrate Caray's charm and help explain his enormous popularity.

Where's Harry? (the often-asked question Stone would get from fans), though not a definitive biography, will appeal to fans of Caray and baseball who want to relax one last time with a genuine character of the game, and perhaps hum Caray's signature song, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," after they're done. The foreword is by Bob Costas. (photos, not seen) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

...without question a book worth reading. (Chicago Sun-Times) Caray's sidekick cuts loose with dozens of hilarious and incredible tales of Chicago's most popular sports personality. (USA Today Baseball Weekly)...captures the fun, nostalgia, and occasional plain silliness that baseball is all about...qualifies as a great baseball book. If you loved Harry, or if you love baseball, read it. (Chicago Tribune)...will appeal to fans of Caray and baseball who want to relax one last time with a genuine character of the game, and perhaps hum Caray's signature song, 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game,' after they're done. (Kirkus)'Life with Harry was certainly never dull,' Steve Stone writes, and he proves the point in his anecdotal biography of the legendary sportscaster Harry Caray. (Peggy Constantine The New York Times Book Review)I hate to use an old cliché, but you can't put it down. (Jim Riggs Jamestown Post-Journal)

Harry Caray was a self-made baseball celebrity with unlimited energy and love for the game and the fans. There will never be another like him. I loved the book and Steve Stone's way of bringing you back to those years when Harry made Cub fans out of millions of us In the South on radio and TV...

Great book a quick read and is funny. Great insight from Steve Stone; a must have for Cub's fans who enjoyed both Harry and Steve on WGN!

All my cub buddies told me I had to read this. There are some funny stories and good insights but I didn't find it to be great like they said. Maybe they built it up to much but I was letdown a little.

Steve Stone's book helps the average Cubs fan better understand where Harry came from. There were great stories I never heard (Michael Jordon at Wrigley refusing to go up to the booth: "I don't want Harry introducing me as Michael Jackson") and great insights into why Harry acted as he did. He was human but always respected and revered the game of baseball, even when the Cubs had bad years. I don't think Harry will ever be forgotten.

Thanks to Steve Stone for sharing his stories about Harry Caray with us. For those fans who know him from only his Cubs' years, should have heard him during the 1960's when he was broadcasting for those great Cardinals' teams. Harry was yelling, "Cardinals Win! Cardinals Win!" long before he came to the Cubs. This was the real Harry as a broadcaster. Harry had an ego that got in the way sometimes as Jack Buck would agree with Steve Stone. Harry, as Jack said, "Always had to make the big call." Steve couldn't even announce a game cancellation without a poke in the ribs from Harry so he could announce it himself. If there was a story in the book that bothered me, it was the one about former Cubs' broadcaster, Josh Lewin, telling Harry about how much his late grandmother enjoyed Harry's broadcasting. Harry's reply to him in an ignoring fashion was disturbing and thoughtless. However, as someone wrote years ago, "If you lack the tickets to see the Cards, you can listen in your own back yards. And the greatest sounds, no ifs or buts, is to hear Harry Caray going nuts."

I always enjoy watching a good Chicago Cub game. And nothing could excite me more than listening to Harry Cary broadcast the play-by-play action in the booth with Steve Stone, another great, former league baseball pitcher. And in the 7th inning when everybody stood up and joined Harry in singing "take me out to the ball game," goose bumps run down my spine. I can still picture myself at a game at Wrigley Field with Harry. Now Steve Stone shares with Cub fans 25 years of memories to pay tribute to a great fan who was lots of fun. Read on to learn more about this great baseball announcer whom never put on a baseball uniform, but learned much and didn't shy away from sharing it with thousands of baseball fans. I strongly recommend this book, I give it five stars, and I'm Marvin P. Ferguson, author of Boys On The Gold Coast.

If you ever heard Harry Caray broadcast a game, you couldn't forget him. Many had the chance, from 1945 through 1997 to hear his work. I grew up in the Midwest of the 50's and 60's, fascinated by sports on the radio. I spent hours going across the dial at night, listening to Bob Elson do the White Sox, Ernie Harwell the Tigers, Vince Lloyd and Lou Boudreau the Cubs, and even stopping by to catch Halsey Hall on the Twins and the Dallas-Fort Worth Spurs on WBAP out of Texas. The place I stopped consistently was 1120 on the AM dial, KMOX. That's where I was captivated by the obvious enthusiasm and descriptive abilities of Harry Caray calling the Cardinals' games with Jack Buck. His call of the Cardinals' run at the Dodgers in the 1963 stretch run -- and their miracle comeback of 1964 are still vivid in my mind. Indeed, Harry's broadcasts inspired me to pursue my own career in sportscasting, which has taken me through 27 years and I hope many more. In his

later years with the Cubs, Harry wasn't as sharp as he had been, but he still had the enthusiasm. Whenever I had the chance to tune him in, I did, especially to catch his seventh inning stretch singing of "Take Me out to the Ballgame." That brought back so many great memories, and oftentimes tears as well. Steve Stone was Harry's partner, friend, and sometimes confidante over Harry's last 15 years. He does a marvelous job detailing Harry's personality, his zealous approach to his job, and his dealing with his stroke in 1987. Harry was special. The way Steve Stone reveals their behind-the-scenes dealings is special as well. It was a most enjoyable read.

Pete Weber Nashville
Predators Play-by-Play

Steve Stone was Harry Carey's straight man for many years. In a sense, he was Harry's Norton. In this book, he tells the shadow's story, including the ups and down. On the humorous side, Steve discusses Harry's struggle to remember names, and how he tormented Arnie (the producer) with his requests. Steve also paints the image of Harry the promoter, explaining how in his way, Harry promoted the character that Steve was to play on the air. Stone also admits that he owes his job in many ways to Harry. That they stayed together for 15 years is a tribute to a partnership that in many ways seemed like a marriage. Some of the things you may not know... With only a very rare exception, he didn't drink on TV, but kept the Bud glass a plug for his sponsors. That he always paid when we went out, even though he'd plug his favorite watering holes. Steve also covers the dark side of Harry - how he handled grudges. How he'd insist on being the prima donna. Their petty fights, and how they'd get over them. His ostracism and eventual reconciliation with his family. In the end, you're left with both a fitting and realistic picture of the icon.

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