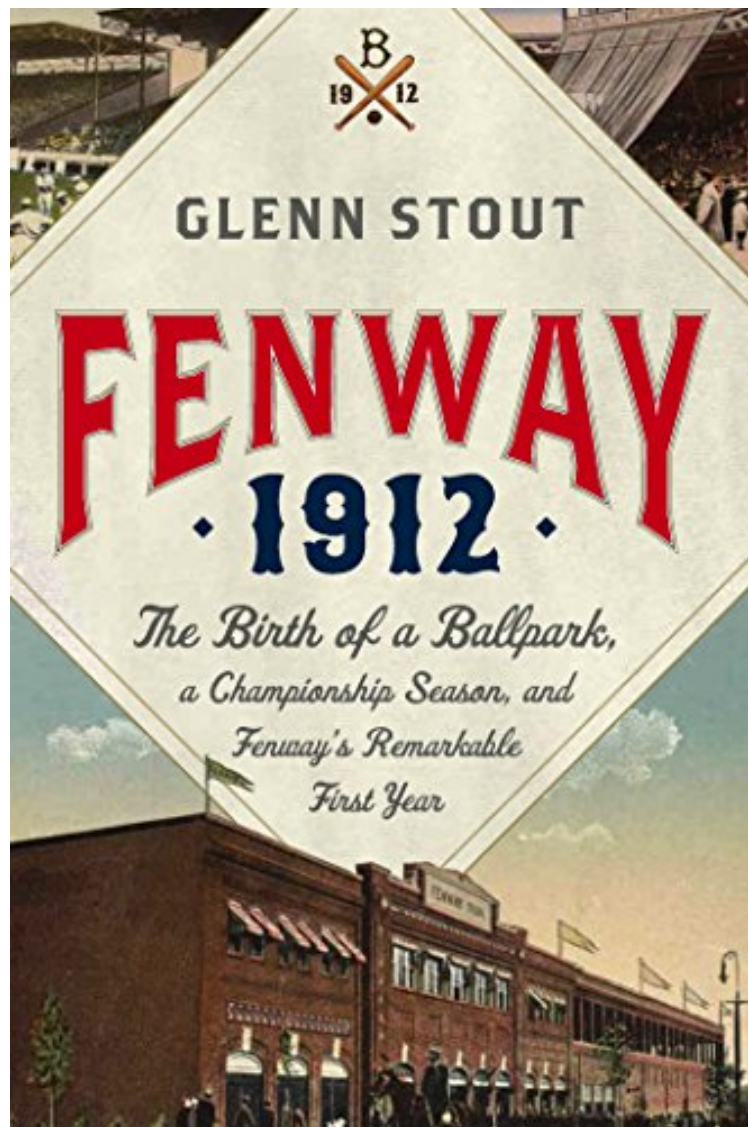


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## Fenway 1912: The Birth of a Ballpark, a Championship Season, and Fenway's Remarkable First Year

Von Glenn Stout

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Von Glenn Stout : **Fenway 1912: The Birth of a Ballpark, a Championship Season, and Fenway's Remarkable First Year** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fenway 1912: The Birth of a Ballpark, a Championship Season, and Fenway's Remarkable First Year:

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To Those Thrilling Days of Yesteryear! Von James Gallen Baseball fans must make their biases clear. I have made the pilgrimage to Fenway Park, like the Red Sox, but I root for the Cardinals. That being said I can now tell you what I think of "Fenway 1912". The book is well written and introduces the reader to many facts about the early years of baseball. Author Glenn Stout lays the groundwork of Boston baseball a century ago, when the Braves, yes the Braves, were king, when ballparks were temporary and their opening no big deal and when the terms of the World Series were subject to annual negotiations. He illustrates how the Fenway of today is not the Fenway of 1912 other than that it shares essentially the same footprint. Although the book focuses on Fenway's first year, the reader learns how it evolved and avoided destruction over the years to become the icon that it is today. Fenway did not become the American League's Mecca because it was the most spectacular stadium but because it survived the march of progress to become the relic of the age when the American league was young and baseball was weaving itself into the American psyche. The one weakness of this book is that it slows a bit as it goes through the Red Sox' World Championship Season almost game by game. It is interesting to read of Tris Speaker, Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson, Walter Johnson and John McGraw, but beyond them the dramatis personae of this tale are people whom this Cardinal fan at least, has never heard of. That being said, "Fenway 1912" is a magical return to the days when ancient gods roamed the fields and created our summer pastime. Any fan of the game must savor its lore of which Fenway Park is a crown jewel. Do not let a season pass without reading it.

Kurzbeschreibung Winner of the 2011 Seymour Medal from the Society for American Baseball Research, for the best book of baseball history or biography "An irresistible look back on Fenway Park's first season, not just for Sox fans . . . a great choice for anyone who enjoys a dip into baseball history at its best." Huffington Post Even people who aren't fans of baseball know Fenway Park. More than just a ballpark, it is a part of American culture, and has been for nearly one hundred years. In Fenway 1912, Glenn Stout tells the remarkable story of Fenway's first year, from the long winter when locals poured concrete and built the park to the ragtag Red Sox team that embarked on a journey to the World Series while the paint was still drying and the grass still coming in. Stout tells the stories behind the park's notorious quirks like the Green Monster, and of the designers, builders, managers, and players who made Fenway's first year unforgettable. For all that has been written in tribute to the great Fenway Park, no one has ever really told the behind-the-scenes true story. Drawing on extensive new research, the esteemed baseball historian Glenn Stout delivers an extraordinary tale of innovation, desperation, and perspiration capturing Fenway as never before. "Fenway 1912 reads like a novel, detailing the trials and tribulations of the quaint ballpark and the team itself Stout has made a great story out of history. Baseball America "Stout's vivid writing and extraordinary research make the journey worthwhile in so many ways . . . you will likely feel as if you were in the creaky grandstand yourself." Boston Globe