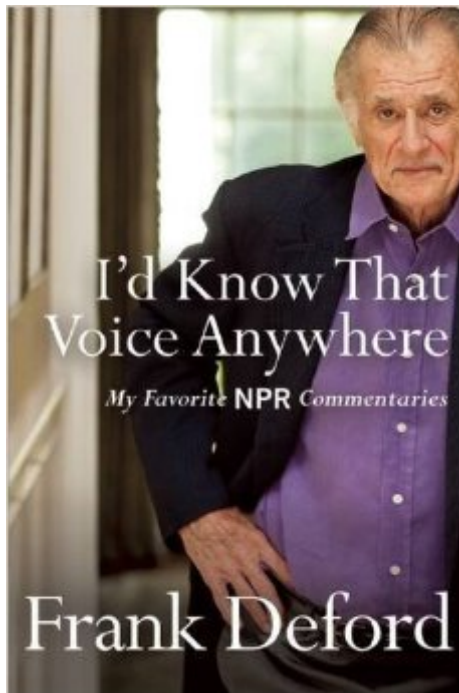


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I'd Know That Voice Anywhere: My Favorite NPR Commentaries



Synopsis

Frank Deford is one of the most beloved sports journalists in America. A contributing writer to Sports Illustrated for more than fifty years, and a longtime correspondent on Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel, these days, Deford is perhaps best known for his weekly commentaries on NPR's "Morning Edition." Since 1980, Deford has recorded 1,600 of them, and in "I Know That Voice Anywhere" he brings together the very best, creating a charming, insightful, and wide-ranging look at athletes and the world of sports. In "I Know That Voice Anywhere," Deford discusses everything from sex scandals and steroids to why, in a culture dominated by celebrity, sport is the only field on earth where popularity and excellence thrive in tandem. This page-turning compendium covers more than thirty years of sports history while showcasing the vast range of Deford's interests and opinions, including his thoughts on the NCAA, why gay athletes "play straight," and why he's worried about living in an economy that is so dominated by golfers. A rollicking sampler of one of NPR's most popular segments, "I Know That Voice Anywhere" is perfect for sports enthusiasts as well as sports skeptics and a must-read for any Frank Deford fan.

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Customer Reviews

Frank Deford is one of America's great sports writers. As with so many other such great writers, he is conversant in many topics other than sports. But it is with sports that he makes his living. For several years he has had a weekly, now monthly, three minutes commentary on NPR morning edition show. This book is a compilation of many of those stories. It is best to refer to his

comments/collection as stories, because that is how he presents them both on the radio in here in print. DeFord, whose recognizable voice provides for the title of this anthology, is a master story teller. Even when he is just discussing sports, a non-sports lover can appreciate the writer's use of phrases and humor. For example, when discussing his dislike for tie games he disparages the acceptance of tie games in international soccer, "How does the rest of the unexceptional world tolerate this? It's exactly this kind of thinking, I believe, which is why they can't fix the bloody euro. The dollar is a winner. The euro is a tie. Get off the dime, Europe, and play to win." The stories are gathered not in the usual way of how they relate to particular topics such as football, baseball, etc. Instead, the writer confirms that he wanted to be like an old pitcher whose arm has lost its zip and to rely instead on a less predictable arrangement. Frankly, I would have preferred the alternative and that left me searching around the topics for what I was in the mood at that moment of reading. I was appreciative of his including material for which the topics remain mostly relevant. I'm sure that he could have discussed the Olympics from the 1990s, but he references the last games and the upcoming ones.

Long-time sport reporter Frank DeFord has written many sports-related books, and a few years ago he wrote his eagerly awaited memoir "Over Time". Perhaps DeFord is best known for his weekly contribution (on Wednesday morning) to NPR's Morning Edition. They are short pieces, 2 to 3 minutes, in which DeFord looks at a particular sports moment or sports-related item, to which he then serves his on-point, at times sarcastic, sometimes funny, thoughts. Now comes this book, which compiles about 100 of those NPR pieces. "I'd Know That Voice Anywhere: My Favorite NPR Commentaries" (2016 publication; 288 pages) collects about 100 of DeFord's NPR pieces. The book is not chronological or organized by topic, in fact I really can't make out any rhyme or reason as to why the pieces are presented in the order that they are. So early on we go from "Words the Play By" (from 1983) to "Our Indecent Toys" (from 2013), the latter kicking off with this intriguing premise: "This may sound far-fetched, but football reminds me of Venice", and how might that be? Just read! Later on, DeFord asks the question, in "Back In the Day" (from 2003), "What did all the people who devour this [sports] stuff do before there were sports? What did they talk about with their buddies? They couldn't have talk about sex all the time, could they?", ha! DeFord's dislike, more outright aversion, of the NCAA's hypocrisy is well known, and several pieces in here talk about that, including the blistering "Stoodint Athaleets" (from 2010).

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