

Honus and Me

Dan Gutman

Reviewed by: Kartikeya Krishna, 15

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Joe Stoshack (Stosh) lives in Luisville, Kentucky. His parents are separated and he lives with his mother, a nurse. Joe loves baseball yet kids always tease him for the way he looks and how his legs are excessively bowlegged. One day when he is cleaning the attic of his old neighbor he finds a 1909 T206 Honus Wagner card (the most valuable baseball card in the world. The last one in pristine condition sold for over \$2.8 million to the owner of the Arizona Diamondbacks). Joe takes it to a card shop where the owner, an ex-professional wrestler named Birdie Farrell, tries to trick him into selling it for ten dollars by saying it's a Heine Wagner card, a common card in the baseball world. He sleeps that night holding the card, wishing he could meet Honus and wakes up to Wagner in his Pirates uniform sitting in front of him. Joe doesn't believe it, but soon realizes he really is the great shortstop, falling asleep again.

Honus is gone when he wakes and Joe believes it was a dream. He later finds Honus near one of his baseball games, playing catch with him. They agree to meet up back at Joe's room later, Honus going to watch a flick in the meantime. That night, Joe tells his mother about the baseball card when Birdie calls him about it, his mother refusing to let Joe make the decision and saying that he can make important decisions when he's grown-up. When Honus arrives, Joe pulls out the card and thinks of 1909, waking up in the Pontchartrain Hotel in Detroit, Michigan as an adult. Honus says they look like twin brothers, and that today is the seventh game of the World Series against the Detroit Tigers. Eventually, after the bottom of the fifth (during which Ty Cobb spikes Honus' hand), Honus signals Josh to come and, when he arrives, tells him that they will trade clothes so Stosh can be him at bat. Stosh goes in Honus' place and smashes a three-run homer down the left field line, making the score 7-0 Pittsburgh. He uses a new card he has in his show (used to cover up the holes in them) to come back to the present time. He tries to see the pros and cons of keeping the card, but eventually decides to give it back his neighbor. When he goes to his house, he sees Birdie there who tries to steal it from him but is stopped by his neighbor who is holding a gun. The old lady takes the card and rips it into pieces, which Stosh then uses to send her back in time.

Dan Gutman at his finest, this book will make you want to keep flipping the pages until there are none left to read afterwards. This book is great for any young male reader, especially if they are as in love with baseball as Stosh is.

Recommended Titles:

Jackie and Me – Dan Gutman

Babe and Me – Dan Gutman

Shoeless Jow and Me – Dan Gutman