

*Jim & Me*

Dan Gutman

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*Jim & Me* is the story of baseball fanatic named Joe Stoshack (“Stosh”), who travels through time using baseball cards, to meet a legendary athlete named Jim Thorpe. Late at night, Stosh hears the doorbell ring, and sees the last person he expected, Bobby Fuller. Bobby is a long time nemesis of Stosh, and the two have never been able to get along with each other. Stosh mentions, that during little league baseball games, Bobby often attempts to throw pitches at his head. But this time, Bobby is meeting Stosh for a different reason; Bobby knows of Stosh’s secret power, and he wishes to meet his great-grandfather Jim Thorpe. At first, Stosh is unaware of the name Jim Thorpe, but after a trip to see his knowledgeable baseball coach, Stosh soon learns that Jim Thorpe is considered to be the best athlete of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Competing in the 1912 Olympics, Thorpe won the decathlon which showcases the best athlete in the world. However, Thorpe was later stripped of the medals due to a controversy. Driven by the want to restore glory to Jim Thorpe’s name, Stosh does extensive research to find a \$50,000 card of Jim Thorpe before the 1912 Olympics. He travels back in time, and later notices that he is in a time period which is after the Olympics, when Thorpe began playing on the professional baseball squad, the New York Giants. However, Stosh and Bobby still continue to help Jim, until Stosh catches Bobby trying to inject Jim with steroids. Stosh stops Bobby from giving Jim the steroids, and later briefs Jim on how to hit a curveball, a feat Jim has trouble with. In the end, Stosh and Bobby go home, and are satisfied with their work in renewing the name of Thorpe and Native Americans as a whole. In addition, Jim and Bobby settle their differences, and learn to get along, throughout the whole ordeal.

*Jim & Me* proves to be an entertaining book with a very diverse plot. One of the things that I enjoyed was the thorough use of baseball knowledge and the explanatory trip through baseball history in 1913 and the 1930’s during the “dead ball” era. Gutman does a masterful job illustrating the techniques used and the way the game was played back in the day. The author also includes play by play descriptions of historic games, which can be enjoyed by any avid baseball fan.

*Jim & Me* is a book that can be enjoyed by any baseball aficionado, however, it is intended for ages 14 and under. The book is not difficult to read. This book can be checked out of a library or even given as a gift to any baseball fan.