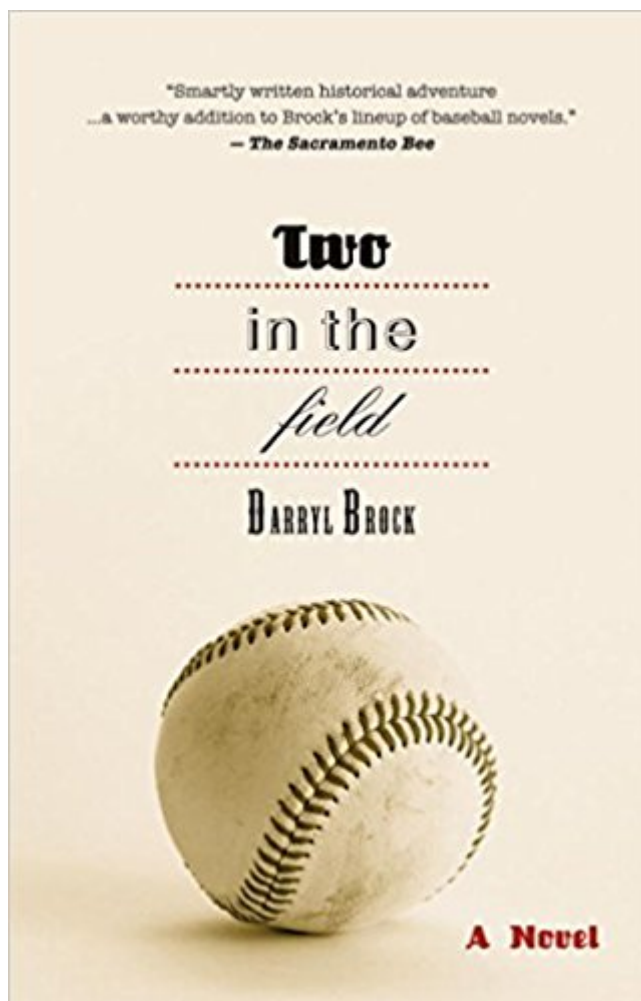


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Two In The Field



Synopsis

In this sequel to the best-selling *If I Never Get Back*, Sam Fowler manages to break into the past once again—but this time it's 1875. Gripped by an economic depression, America is a darker place. Again Sam falls in with ballplayers, but spins off on his own seeking the whereabouts of Caitlin, the woman he loves. His knight-like, hazardous quest forces him to ride the rails with tramps, deal with starving miners and the desperate Molly Maguires, work in a Saratoga casino, and venture into the Nebraska prairies. In the end, Sam will have to head into the Black Hills accompanied by Cait, a former slave, and a Sioux guide to face the ultimate reckoning of his life. Like its predecessor, *Two in the Field* combines authentic research (including accurate details of early baseball), a narrative filled with twists and turns, and memorable characters in a white-knuckle ride through a dramatic period of American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brock's sequel to *If I Never Get Back* promises the quaint historical charm that distinguished its predecessor, but some erratic plotting and a decision to virtually eliminate the baseball motif hurts the follow-up effort. The novel begins with time-traveling protagonist Samuel Fowler stuck in a San Francisco mental hospital after an extended flashback to Cincinnati in 1869, where he was a member of the first professional baseball team, the Red Stockings. Fowler remains haunted by his ill-fated affair with Caitlin O'Neill, and when his doctor challenges him to verify her existence, he sets off again for Cincinnati, where an auto accident sends him hurtling back to the 19th century. A visit to Samuel Clemens helps Fowler track down Caitlin in a Nebraska settlement, and Fowler takes up

a quest to save the settlement from a thuggish, corrupt senator whose land scams threaten to destroy it. The early scenes in which Fowler goes back in time are deftly handled, as are Fowler's attempts to rekindle his romance with O'Neill. But his battles with the senator and his brutish cohorts seem far-fetched and unfocused, especially when the villains kidnap Caitlin's son and Fowler attempts a ludicrous rescue based on advice from George Custer. With this uneven plot, Brock's competent but somewhat diluted sequel can't match its inspired forerunner. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“The wonderful story that commenced in *If I Never Get Back* rolls onward a marvelous historical yarn! •Greg Rhodes, director Cincinnati Reds Baseball Museum
“Smartly written historical adventure a worthy addition to Brock's lineup of baseball novels. •The Sacramento Bee
Any lover of the American Pastime will find this novel gripping and engaging. The research is impeccable. I cannot encourage you enough to run out and grab a copy of both novels and jump right in. •Vintage Base Ball Association

I've read some of the other reviews of this book and agree to a large extent. So this review may seem redundant. I had written to a couple of years ago, complaining that "*If I Never Get Back*" is not on Kindle. It has been one of my favorite books. I think last year or this year they put it on Kindle and, when I discovered it, immediately bought it and reread it. I knew he had also written this book, but had no idea it had anything to do with the first book. Then I discovered it was a sequel to the first. Even though I read the reviews and knew, generally what to expect, I got it anyway. I agree with the reviewer who said that this is best for those who have read the first book. It is really a continuation of that, and might not stand up so well on its own. This could get no less than four stars from me because the writing is quite good and so are the characterizations. I knew there was less baseball in this, but didn't realize that there was virtually no baseball in it. Likewise, it (by definition) lacked the aura of suddenly discovering yourself in the previous century and having to adapt to it and learn about it. It lacks much of the charm of the first book and reads more like an adventure book and love story. Instead of baseball being the focus, there are train hoppers, Indians, striking miners, Molly Maguires, hucksters and the bad guys from the first novel. Mark Twain is visited again and even given advice on writing *Tom Sawyer*. If you take it for what it is, it is an excellent novel, though I think you have to have read the first one. I just missed the charm and the baseball theme of the first one. The main reason for reading this is to see the outcome of the love story and how Sam

Fowler's life finally finds it's way. I hope I have been of some help, even if it's only to corroborate what others have already said.

I liked this book primarily because it felt great to revisit character of IINGB. Some of the Native American material was not well thought out. Always a bad idea to play with the spirit of Crazy Horse, IMO. Brock's treatment of the "gay" Indian was equally offensive to me as a 2 spirit person. It is worth reading & making up your own mind. Overall the book is not as satisfying a story about time travel. The tension between past and present -- that was the heart of the first book -- is absent. Nevertheless, if you're a fan of Brock/ IINGB, TITF is a must read.

Darryl Brock's sequel to "If I Never Get Back" proceeds seamlessly to address questions left unanswered in his first novel. Into the mix we now find Mark Twain, international intrigue, and the metamorphosis of professional baseball into our National Pastime. Brock weaves history, time travel, and mystery masterfully.

A must-read for fans of the first book and lovers of time travel fiction. Sports fiction fans may be a bit disappointed by the lesser role the national pastime takes in this book, but may appreciate the cosmic significance it is accorded. Many moons ago, knowing of my love for Jack Finney's great *Time and Again*, a friend (and former sports reporter) of mine turned me on to *If I Never Get Back*. I loved the story and found Brock's writing style easy to read and compelling, although not particularly lyrical. I duly added the book to my roster of fave reads, even though the lack of closure at the end was disappointing. I was pleasantly surprised to discover the sequel a few weeks ago, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Although Sam's adventures are pretty far-fetched (newsflash: it's a fantasy!), it's a fast-moving tale peopled by well-drawn (even if sometimes one-dimensional) characters. And best of all -- closure! It was a satisfying read, I was delighted to revisit some old friends (Mark Twain, especially), and really delighted to find out what happened.

Great time-travel book - sequel to "If I Never Get Back" - Couple of episodes with Mark Twain, riding the rails with hobos in 1875 - gambling in Saratoga Springs, coal mines in Pa. - and settling a village in Old West Nebraska.

Like its predecessor, "I Don't Care if Never Get Back", *Two in the Field* is a great read. It has everything: baseball, history, science fiction, romance and drama. I read the first when it was brand

new and only discovered the follow up by accident and read them together. My question is, why weren't they both best sellers?

Sequel to "If I Never Get Back..." I was so happy to read the rest of Sam's adventures. Brock found a niche & I love these two books beyond compare.

It could have had more vintage baseball in it like it's predecessor. Otherwise it was almost as good.

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