

Ted Williams unthawed in new novel

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Red Sox Hall of Famer Ted Williams has stepped back up to the plate — thanks to the new novel "Extra Innings."

Bruce Spitzer's first book places the famed and frozen Red Sox [team stats] slugger in 2092 with the aid of cryonics.

"Ted Williams is really just a fantastic fountain of personality and history to draw from," said Spitzer, the director of communications for the Massachusetts Bankers Association.

Spitzer spent six years writing and editing his 400-page novel in the early-morning hours before heading to his day job.

"The novel really addresses some universal themes, particularly the question that any of us would ask ourselves, which is 'If you had the chance to do it all over again, what would you do differently," Spitzer, 52, told the Herald. "In Ted Williams' case, I loved the guy. He was obviously brilliant in so many ways but he was flawed like the rest of us."

Spitzer formally launches the book next Thursday in Fenway Park [map]'s Bleacher Bar, with sales benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Joey Fund.

Spitzer added his book "fills a niche" compared to other pending and upcoming Fenway Park and Red Sox books on the market because it's fiction.

"The good news is most of the stuff coming out about the Red Sox or baseball or Fenway Park is nonfiction. This fills the other side of the ledger," he said. "If you're in the mood for baseball but want to see something a little more creative and not just historic, then 'Extra Innings' can be the novel for you."

Because of his "frenetic" schedule of working in the banking sector, Spitzer said most of his writing was done well before 8:30 a.m. Though there were periods when his fiction fell on the backburner, Spitzer added he enjoyed the process of writing at his own leisure.

"I've been able to shift gears and create kind of a spywall between the two and have enough time in my day to do both," he said. "Sleep is overrated."

In bringing Williams back to life, Spitzer said he did "a ton of research with biographers" to ensure every reaction and situation Williams faces in the future, recalls those he experienced in his past.

He added he has no desire to quit his day job, thanks to his love for the work and support of colleagues.

"I don't know if I could write fiction more than two hours a day anyway," Spitzer said. "That's my highest priority, my job. I've been at it a long time and I have no plans of giving it up."

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