

Frequently Asked Questions

Author Bruce E. Spitzer answers questions about his novel *Extra Innings*

Q: Every novel needs a “hook,” what’s the hook for *Extra Innings* (EI)?

A: The late Hall of Fame baseball player Ted Williams is the first person in the world brought back to life through the science of cryonics. *Extra Innings* asks and answers the questions: How would he cope with no living relatives or friends, no means to support himself? Would he even recognize the new world into which he was suddenly thrust in the distant future 90 years after his death? Would he be destined to repeat himself or create a new man in the greatest comeback of all time? The first person brought back to life after death will also know if God exists, presenting innumerable challenges.

Q: What genre is *Extra Innings*?

A: The novel is general fiction, and commercial fiction, but it has elements of speculative fiction, a sports novel, and a military thriller (mirroring the “first life” of Ted Williams).

Q: How did you develop the premise?

A: I am a baseball fan and one night five years ago I was watching a Red Sox game on TV at home and Don Orsillo and Jerry Remy were talking about Ted Williams. In between innings I was channel surfing a bit (who doesn’t?) and landed on something like the Discovery Channel, maybe the History Channel. The program was about mummies and a belief in life after death. I connected the dots: the real-life cryonic preservation of the late Ted Williams and the human desire for life after death and began to imagine what it would be like if indeed Ted was successfully reanimated one day. Thus *Extra Innings* was born.

Q: Is this a book just for Red Sox fans?

A: Absolutely not. You will not even have to be a baseball fan to enjoy it. Even a Yankees fan! It is a very human novel, and I mean that in the truest sense of the word, with a focus on humanity at its core. The book explores the universal themes of second chances and redemption and asks the question (and hopefully answers), if you had a chance to do it all over again would you do it differently? And, by the way, it will appeal to both men and women. One of my beta readers even said, “This is a love story disguised as a baseball book.”

Q: What was the writing process like?

A: The first draft took a year to write and I rewrote and revised for another five years. I rise at 4 a.m. each day and write for 2 ½ hours before going off to work at the job I love in Boston where I write and edit other stuff. I also work on fiction for at least a few hours on one day each weekend. So, it is basically a six-day-a-week passion, but because I do it so early in the morning I still have time left for my career, family, friends and other interests. Sleep is overrated anyway.

Q: What qualified you to write this novel?

A: Well, this is my first novel, but I’ve been a writer, editor and PR executive all of my professional life and went to school to learn the craft of writing. I have a journalism degree and use it every day. Quite a few novelists have worked in PR and advertising, which, historically, require good writing skills. The PR types include Danielle Steele and Kurt Vonnegut; and James Patterson is a former copywriter and ad exec. Far be it from me to compare myself to these authors, but as a writer and PR person, you must master the skill of quality research, which was invaluable in writing *Extra Innings*.

Q: Who was your editor?

A: Alan Rinzler edited *Extra Innings*. Alan is a publishing veteran who has edited Toni Morrison (*Bluest Eye*), Hunter S. Thompson (*Fear & Loathing on the Campaign Trail*), Tom Robbins (*Jitterbug Perfume*), and many others, including Robert Ludlum, Clive Cussler, Jerzy Kosinsky, Andy Warhol and Shirley MacLaine. It has been a real pleasure to work with him.

Q: Would Ted Williams like *Extra Innings*?

A: There's no doubt that he struggled to maintain his privacy. He and the media mutually mistreated and mistrusted each other—mistakes were made on both sides. As far as the novel is concerned, *EI* is both reverential and redemptive. I think he would like it, provided he's not mad as hell about being frozen in the first place. He was a man of very few regrets. The only one that stands out was one verbalized in the autumn of his life: he wished that he had spent more time with his children. This novel is about second chances and redemption. Indeed, Williams makes a point of spending a lot of time with his adopted family. Perhaps that would please him.

Q: My kids are baseball fans; can they read this novel?

A: Frankly, it's not a home run for very young kids. In his real life, Ted Williams was both profound and profane—the master of colorful language or, more accurately, off-color language. Since my desire was to paint a true portrait of the man, his habits of speech die hard in his new life. And, as they say on TV, there are a few “adult situations.”

Q: Where is *Extra Innings* available?

A: You can ask for *EI* in any bookstore, chain or independent. The novel can also be ordered online at Amazon or BarnesAndNoble.com. *EI* is also available as an eBook through Amazon on the Kindle, or through the Kindle app on the iPad.

Q: Can readers/Book Club organizers contact you?

A: Yes, please. My email address is Bruce@BruceSpitzer.com You can arrange a personal appearance with your book club and if I can't make it in person I will Skype with your club.

Q: Do you have another novel in the works?

A: Yes I do, but the premise is a secret for now. I can tell you this, it's general fiction, but the novel will be far different from *Extra Innings*.

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