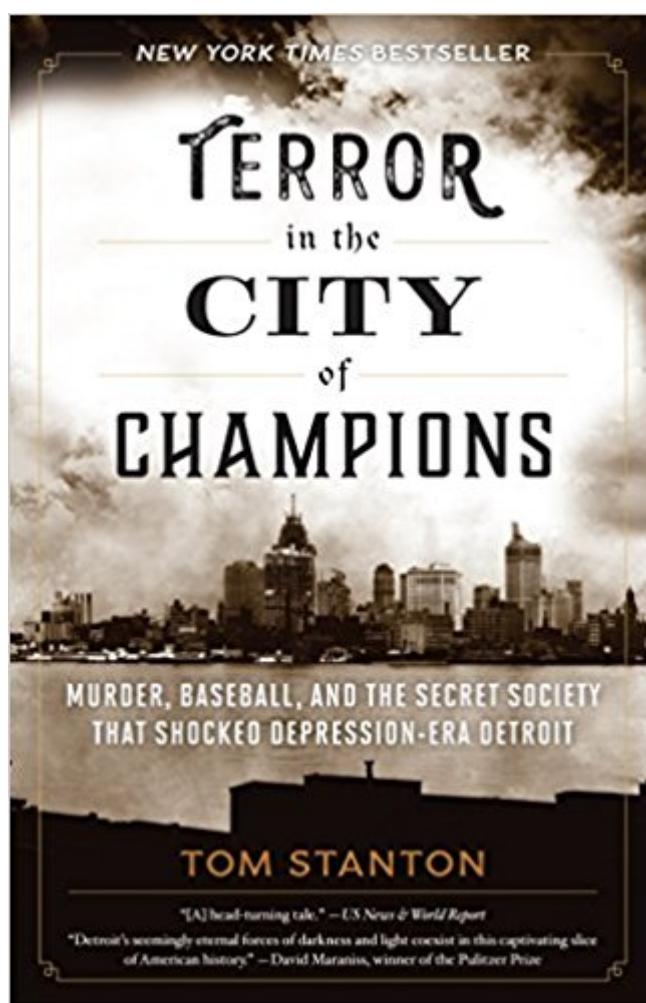


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Terror In The City Of Champions: Murder, Baseball, And The Secret Society That Shocked Depression-era Detroit



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller Foreword Reviews [★](#) INDIEFAB Book of the Year Winner in True Crime Selected as one of ["2016's Great Reads"](#) by NPR Finalist for the 2016 CASEY Award for Best Baseball Book of the Year An unforgettable cauldron of history, crime, race, and sports Now in paperback comes the critically acclaimed New York Times Bestseller about a championship city haunted by a wave of racist terror. Detroit, mid-1930s was abuzz over its unrivaled sports success when gun-loving baseball fan Dayton Dean became ensnared in the nefarious Black Legion. The secretive, Klan-like group murdered enemies, flogged associates, and planned armed rebellion. The Legion boasted tens of thousands of members across the Midwest, among them politicians and prominent citizens—even, possibly, a beloved athlete. Award-winning author Tom Stanton has written a stunning tale of history, crime, and sports. [\[A\] head-turning tale of the generally forgotten Black Legion terrorist group and Detroit in the 1930s.](#) [★](#) [US News & World Report](#)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[\[A\] head-turning tale of the generally forgotten Black Legion terrorist group and Detroit in the 1930s. \(Us News and World Report\)\(starred review\)](#) A veteran journalist uses a variety of lenses to illuminate the dark story of the Black Legion, an association of murderous (white) domestic terrorists who briefly thrived in the upper Midwest. Stanton unfolds the history of the Legion gradually, always keeping it in the social, cultural, and economic context of the area where it was born and grew [★](#). First-rate reporting and a seminar in how to employ context in investigative and

historical journalism. (Kirkus) "With the racist Black Legion spreading evil and the rambunctious Detroit Tigers bringing joy, Detroit's seemingly eternal forces of darkness and light coexist in this captivating slice of American history." •David Maraniss, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story* and *When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi* "Today, Detroit is a shadow of its former self. This fascinating book reveals what an astonishing place it formerly was. Eight decades ago, it was a boiling cauldron of social extremism, extravagant criminality, and athletic excellence. Readers of this book have a new understanding of the city and the Thirties." •George F. Will (Starred Review) If you're looking for a book that combines sports, crime, and history in one package, look no further. For fans of books about baseball, Depression-era American History, and crime nonfiction, this book is a must-read. (Booklist) Stanton's masterly prose is thoroughly engaging from cover to cover. (Library Journal) Glittering triumphs cover up a sordid racist conspiracy in this lively vignette. Swerving between hysterical excitement and hysterical fear, the city embodied the roiling socioeconomic and ideological currents of the 1930s. a cauldron of racial tensions, police brutality, and strife between management and workers. (Publishers Weekly)

Praise for Tom Stanton's previous books "Stanton has an eye for the novelistic detail that captures the drama of Aaron's drive to the record." • The New York Times Book Review "Engaging...The real story here...is of the trials this wondrous player endured on the way to his big moment." • Sports Illustrated "Powerful...Baseball books rarely reach the heights of Stanton's...Excellent." • Chicago Tribune "As splendid as a sunny spring day at the ballpark. ... Stanton's writing is seamless." • Publishers Weekly, starred review "What's better than talking baseball?...Stanton's got it all here, the real stuff." • Elmore Leonard "A beautiful gem of a book: tender, perceptive, compassionate, funny, and wise." • Lawrence S. Ritter, author of *The Glory of Their Times* "Those who don't understand say baseball is only a game. Those who run and play it sometimes act as if it's only a business. By now, maybe they're right. But for a long time, something else was true. That something else is what Tom Stanton is getting at here." • Bob Costas --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Detroit is just starting to recover from an economic depression when its sports teams go on a run

that is unrivaled. At the same time, there's a dark undercurrent as the group the 'Black Legion' grows. This was an interesting read. I'd never heard of the 'Black Legion' so I really enjoyed learning about a segment of American history I knew nothing about. On the other hand, the two main storylines just seemed completely disjointed. I'm not sure how the success in sports connects to the political times in the city. It just felt a bit forced to have the two plots forced together. I think instead of being distracted by the sports aspect, I would have enjoyed the book more if they had just concentrated on the Legion.

Terror in the City of Champions is an interesting look at many events in the mid 30s in Detroit mixing sports, especially baseball, with the racist Black Legion organizations killing spree in the SE Michigan area. The focus is on baseball but Lions and Red Wings also have a voice as does Joe Louis. Detroit really was the City of Champions with three major sports titles in town at the same time, the only time ever anywhere. A couple of errors like Ossian Sweet was a doctor not a dentist, but overall seems like a love letter to Detroit sports fans with well researched meticulous detail. The chapters alternate between telling the story of sports or telling the story of nasty racist activities. Fascinating read. I knew Malcolm X blamed his father's death on a KKK offshoot, but nothing much else about the Black Legion. This was remarkable and disturbing. I also found the voices of the opposition to police brutality could be uttered today and that was sad. On the other hand, Mr Stanton obviously loves his hometown and more people should embrace the amazing city that is Detroit, warts and all.

The book was poorly written down and edited. Too many facts and names, some mentioned once and never connected to the story. A lot of material but not well organized. I don't recommend it but would like to see it re-written. This is an amazing, important and interesting story of Detroit and the 1930's, but not a good read.

Author Tom Stanton has combined baseball with a home-grown terrorist group in his riveting read entitled "Terror in the City of Champions." Stanton combines the 1934--1936 baseball seasons of the Detroit Tigers with the so-called patriotic, but deadly, Black Legion group. To me it appeared some individuals were forced to join once they attended a meeting and woe unto those who neglected their regular attendance or refused an order from those in charge. Mickey Cochrane was at the helm of the Tigers during these years and the author brings out the personality of him as the manager along with owner Frank Navin and later Walter Briggs. Players such as Hank Greenberg,

Charley Gehringer, and Leon "Goose" Goslin led the Tigers' attack with a pitching staff made up of Lynwood "Schoolboy" Rowe, Tommy Bridges, and Elden Auker, and an up-and-coming boxer named Joe Louis began his climb to the heavyweight boxing title. The author rotates the chapters back and forth between baseball and the notorious Black Legion. He does a masterful job in relating the details of the baseball seasons and we are thankfully spared game-by-game details which can lead to boring reading. The book takes its title from the year 1935 when the Tigers, Lions, and Red Wings all brought championships to the city of a booming Detroit. The book also contains eight pages of photographs.

Part of this was a good read but the author tends to repeat regarding some activities of the Black Legion. Also, if not interesting in sports (I'm not), reading about the Tigers not that compelling. But I did learn a lot about the Black Legion.

Even if you're not from Detroit this historical narrative offers an engaging perspective on the lives of Detroiters in the restless and racist 1930s. Sports, mainly the Tigers and Joe Louis, is the engine that makes this account dynamic. But it's the author's detail about the frightening tactics of the Black Legion that gives this slice of Depression era history its real substance.

Bought it for my dad. He said the book jumps around a lot and he had to keep rereading sections to follow but he really enjoyed it. Now my 92 year old great grandpa is reading it and finding things out that happened when he was a kid that he knew nothing about!

Terror in the City tells the tale of Detroit in the middle of the Depression, weaving sports, labor issues and the shady dealings of the mysterious Black Legion into a decent book. It's a bit thin in places, and runs out of steam at the end (was the Legion really all that powerful?), but the writing is solid.

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