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## Game Seven



## **Synopsis**

My name is Julio Ramirez Jr. and baseball is my whole life.Â Since he was ten, Julio has lived in the shadow of his famous father.Â Not just because Julio Senior is a pitcher for the Miami Marlins, but because he fled Cuba to play professional baseball, leaving his Julio and his mother and sister branded as the family of a traitor.Â Â Now sixteen, Julio dreams of playing for Cubaâ™s national teamâuntil he finds out his father's defection may destroy his chances.Â When heâ™s given the opportunity to flee Cuba, he has to make the toughest choice of his life.Â Can he abandon his family, just like his Papi did?Â Will freedom be worth the perilous journey and risking prison if heâ™s caught?Â Will his Papi be waiting for him on the other shoreâor, with the Marlins in the World Series against the Yankees, has Julio Senior forgotten about his son?Â Â Set against the backdrop of the Series on which everything depends, Game Seven is a suspenseful story of loyalty, survival, and baseball.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: HL770L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers (March 10, 2015)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,105,816 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #99 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Baseball & Softball #139 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

This book was a fast read, and the plot was oh-so predictable. I really cannot recommend this book to anyone, except perhaps a reluctant reader who loves baseball. I used to cover Major League Baseball, so I know the game well, too bad the author does not seem to share my knowledge of the

game or my attention to detail. There were too many cliches and too many plot elements involving baseball that simply would not happen. Reporters cannot sneak people into stadiums and clubhouses. You need a credential, and there is a photo on the credential.

WOW! Paul Volponi once again writes an exceptional, edge-of-your-seat, page-turner! I've only attended a 1/2 dozen baseball games in my life, but this book made me fall in love with the game. That's brilliance. The intense action and fast pace is perfect for reluctant readers, and the subject matter will appeal to boys, but is certainly accessible to and will hold the interest of girls. Paul Volponi is an exceptional writer who creates scenes so realistic that you'll feel the boat rocking and tumbling, the heat pounding, and a baseball smacking right into your glove. Get ready to escape Cuba in a '59 Buick car converted into a boat, catch a baseball at 101 mph, steal a base, kiss the Miami beach as you reach freedom. **FREEDOM**, I realize, that many of us Americans so easily take for granted. This is a novel is **SO MUCH MORE THAN BASEBALL!** It's about a family in Cuba left behind by their father and husband, who defected to the United States while playing for Cuba's national team. For six years the family suffers without Julio Sr., living in poverty, barely making ends meet. Julio Sr., aka El Fuego, is living the high life as a relief pitcher for the Miami Marlins, a source of pain and pride for young Julio aka Junior. The younger Julio plays baseball too. Coached by his uncle and cheered on by his cousin, a fellow teammate, Julio is a remarkably gifted ballplayer clearly following in his father's footsteps. But being El Fuego's son has its huge disadvantages, making life painfully difficult. When an incredible opportunity comes to Julio and his family to leave Cuba as defectors/traitors, each person has to decide what they want to do. There are many surprises and tear-jerk moments in this novel. The descriptions, especially about life in Cuba are so vivid that readers will have no problem envisioning the scenes and understand the antiquated life most Cubans live. (The exception: government officials.) The action is intense and I couldn't read fast enough to find out what was going to happen next, often what was unexpected. I can't recommend this novel enough. It's a must read, even if you can't stand baseball. It's a must for every library. This is the novel that will keep the attention of those who **LOVE SPORTS** and **HATE TO READ**. **GAME SEVEN** is a game changer in that department. Without a doubt, this novel is just one more in a line of outstanding novels by Paul Volponi that solidifies his title as the King of Urban YA Fiction.

My 11 year old son devoured this book. Reading is not his favorite thing, so whenever I pick a book for him that he likes, I feel like mom of the year. It's a great choice for baseball fans. I'll be scanning

this author's books for more titles.

I think product is great. The taste is good.I wish I can use more of the green juice but because my kidneys unfortune I can't.

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