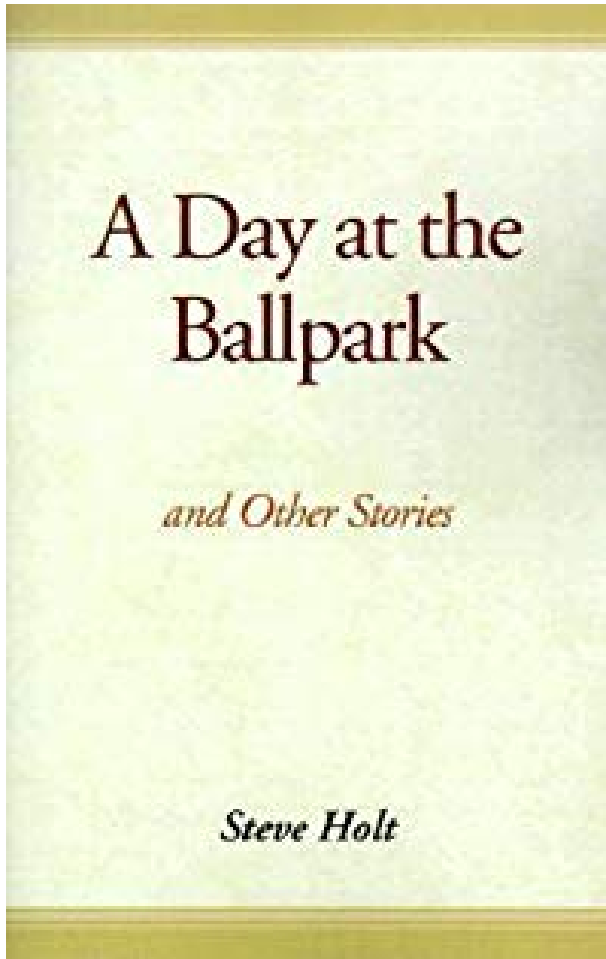


A Day at the Ballpark: And Other Stories



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Seldom does a thin little first book of fiction provide so much reward while fueling such great anticipation. Steve Holt's short stories illuminate the struggles of men and boys to face and to cope with depression, abandonment, and deceit. With spare language and a sure narrative touch reminiscent of Richard Ford's stories, his navigation of the time and sometimes self-destructive preoccupations of his male characters evokes power, pathos, and rich humor. Against the backdrop of these coming-of-age stories, the tantalizing excerpt which Holt shares from his forthcoming novel *Realworld.com* is a startling change in style and form, one which will keep readers turning the pages and asking for more. Steve Holt depicts a boy's first flight from his troubled family in two coming-of-age stories, *Outside* and *Ballpark*, relies on a few pages of spare dialogue to tell a haunting tale of marital deceit in *Checkup*, and provides a tantalizing first look at his forthcoming novel.