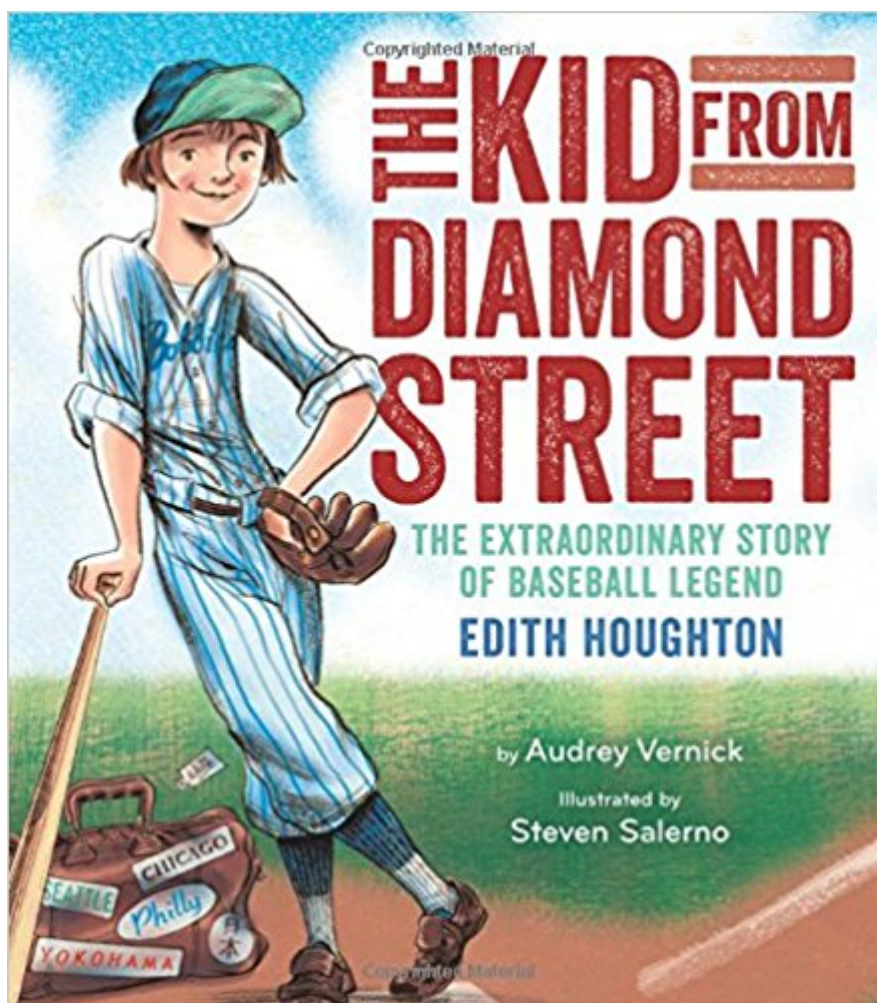


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# The Kid From Diamond Street: The Extraordinary Story Of Baseball Legend Edith Houghton



## Synopsis

Audrey Vernick and Steven Salerno have again collaborated to bring us a captivating picture book about a compelling but little-known piece of baseball history. Beginning in 1922, when Edith Houghton was only ten years old, she tried out for a women's professional baseball team, the Philadelphia Bobbies. Though she was the smallest on the field, soon reporters were talking about "The Kid" and her incredible skill, and crowds were packing the stands to see her play. Her story reminds us that baseball has never been about just men and boys. Baseball is also about talented girls willing to work hard to play any way they can.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD880L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.4 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #411,709 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #195 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation #332 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s #335 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 3-Vernick provides another entertaining and informative introduction to a little-known baseball legend. Edith Houghton, born in 1912 in Philadelphia, became a female baseball player at the age of 10. Playing with women who were older than herself, she traveled as far as Japan. Later, she became the first woman hired as a scout for a professional baseball team. While the story itself is fascinating, Vernick excels at highlighting the more noteworthy aspects of the athlete's life with her attention to detail. When describing the team's sea voyage to Japan, she points out the fun the teammates had dancing and socializing, once they overcame their seasickness. However, the heart

of the story is Houghton's recollections of her youthful experiences. Appended is a postscript of Houghton's later life along with photographs-a satisfying touch. Created from charcoal ink and gouache, the colorful and lively illustrations complement the text. Especially well done is Salerno's occasional use of the contrast between sepia and color tones, which accentuates the more important aspects of the page. This book should especially appeal to those who enjoyed Vernick and Salerno's *Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team* (Clarion, 2012). VERDICT The compelling story and energetic illustrations make this an excellent addition.-Margaret Nunes, Gwinnett County Public Library, GA  
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2017 ILA-CBC Children's Choice List "An engaging story that reminds readers that baseball isn't just numbers and statistics, men and boys. Baseball is also ten-year-old girls, marching across a city to try out for a team intended for players twice their age."Horn Book "Salerno's illustrations, variously rendered in charcoal, ink, and gouache, as well as digital color, lovingly evoke the time period and the settings. Much fascinating information about Edith's long and adventurous life is added in an author's note. A forgotten star shines anew."Kirkus Reviews "[The Kid from Diamond Street] should especially appeal to those who enjoyed Vernick and Salerno's *Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team*. The compelling story and energetic illustrations make this an excellent addition."School Library Journal "Salerno's mixed-media illustrations are a lively amalgam of action and scenic panorama..."Bulletin "Choice quotations from [Edith] Houghton bring her personality and love of baseball to vivid life, while Salerno's mixed-media artwork channels the footloose energy of the Jazz Age..."Publishers Weekly "This timely message about playing simply for the love of the game, as opposed to personal glory or celebrity, comes through loud and clear."Booklist

I was a kid in the 90s, when a million kids sports movies were made -- especially about baseball. This story would blow a lot of them away. The story of an all-women baseball team, well-told, with fantastic illustrations. My daughter loves this book almost as much as I do. I want to see this made into a feature film. Or two. Start a franchise -- my family will go see every single one in theaters.

Beautiful story, well told with gorgeous drawings that evoked the period.

Ok

This is a terrific book about a little known story. I had not heard of Edith Houghton who played baseball in the 1920's, but here is the story of this young girl who has even been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Girls did not have many opportunities in athletics when Edith was born in 1912. She was the youngest of 10 siblings and made her way into the boy's sports world along with a few others. She went to Japan with a group of females, all older, to play male teams in that baseball loving country. After her active playing days, she became a professional baseball scout for the Phillies. There has only been one other female baseball scout so take a look at this unique and amazing person! She and her team were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006. There is one aspect which confused me. Page 28 states a male battery (pitcher and catcher) was used for the team's Japan tour, but then page 30 states that the Japanese newspapers reported that crowds came to see the all-girl team from America. It takes something away from it all if the battery were male since the pitcher can control much of the game. I conclude they were all girls when playing in the U. S., but had a male pitcher in Japan because . . . (they were great hitters so they needed a male pitcher?? Is that the implication?) The illustrations by Steven Salerno are absolutely wonderful. I loved the brightness, drawing, and color. It is printed in an easy to read font with a two page note from the author including pictures of Edith. This book can be used in the elementary schools as part of history to understand how our culture has changed. It can also be used to prompt discussion about changes which have occurred for females. I highly recommend this book. I wish I had read a book like this as a child so I would have had the guts to get involved instead of just chasing the foul balls the boys hit. I received this book from the publishers as part of the Assn. of Region 11 School Librarians review group.

In the late 1920's baseball was a man's world. Young ten year old Edith Houghton worked hard to change that. This picture book teaches young readers about her childhood, her work, and her legacy. This is a great book to read and discuss with young children to let them know that hard work and dedication pay off in the end. A must reader for young baseball fans!

We seem to be choosing a lot of baseball stories lately. First we read about Casey Stengel and then William Hoy and now Edith Houghton. Baseball seems to have a lot of legends who have overcome some type of challenge to reach greatness. In the case of Edith Houghton she was not only a woman but a child of 10 when she started playing professional baseball on one of the only women teams.

Amazing really. As a parent, I find her parents truly amazing as well. She would never have been able to play without their support. Given the time period, I imagine more than a few parents would not allow their daughters to pursue such an unladylike dream. Beautifully illustrated and engaging story.

They tell me that pictures are worth a thousand words, teach valuable lessons, and I believe it. This is a fun book that teaches about hard work to fulfill your passion. There's no such thing as using the idea of being average as an excuse and yes girls can play baseball. I strongly recommend that every kid get this book, I give it 5 stars, and I'm Marvin P. Ferguson, author of Boys On The Gold Coast.

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