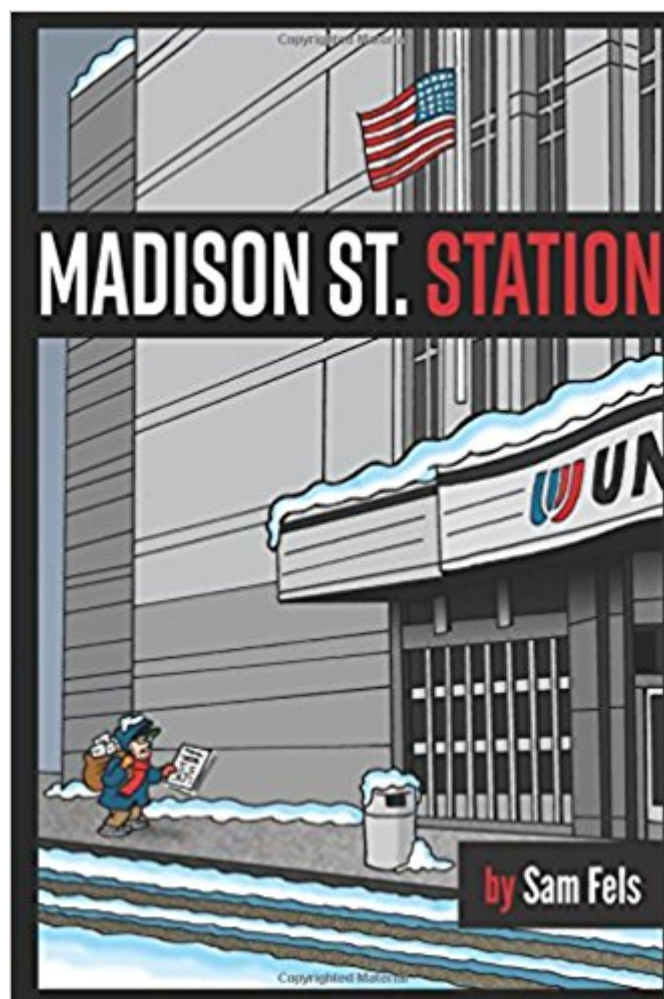


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# Madison St. Station



## Synopsis

The fall and rise of the Chicago Blackhawks, is the most dramatic in North American sports. From drawing barely 3,000 people per game to three Stanley Cups, the turnaround was simply whiplash. Fans who have been through it all can hardly believe the ride, and no one was a better example of this than Sam Fels. A die-hard fan as a child, disconnected as the organization collapsed in on itself, and then pulled back in by their resurgence, Fels became something of a voice for it all through his blog (SecondCityHockey.com, TheCommittedIndian.com, FaxesFromUncleDale.com) and the independent, gameday program he wrote and sold outside the United Center every game between 2008 and 2016. There was no better seat for the transformation of the franchise than his post outside Gate 3. He documented every game, taking the ride with every other fan and welcoming all the new ones along the way, while trying to come to grips with this new hockey world and all the challenges life was throwing at him away from the United Center. But this is the story of every Hawks, and hockey fan riding the fortunes of their teams through the fortunes of their own lives. How we use our fandom to cope, to celebrate, to commiserate. And to drink. How the different phases of our life fit differently with our continued fandom, and vice versa. How we all grow up and yet hang on to something of our childhood. And how our fandom colors the biggest moments of our lives and change the way we see things outside of the arena. How being a fan keeps us company when we're low, adds to our highs, and continually fills us with anger and dread in between. Won't you take a ride?

## Book Information

Paperback: 290 pages

Publisher: Independently published (June 9, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1521459959

ISBN-13: 978-1521459959

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #361,291 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey](#) #99 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey](#) #226 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports](#)

## Customer Reviews

.. or for yourself. Honestly the only problem I had with the book was that this edition did not have page numbers & chapter breaks (OCD for life) which has been amended I believe - all in all a great read about the high, lows, and creamy middles of fandom intersected with family. While it is purely Sam's story it does an accurate job of what it means to follow a niche sport & specific team, and how teams can strengthen the bonds of family in ways that outright communication cannot. Easy/entertaining read with a heart Edit: I gave this review without reading any of the others - I can't believe someone else already used "creamy middle" - well considering they are a fan of sam's writing I can

If you have a love for a sport, even if it's not hockey, buy this book. Sam is one of my favorite writers, and the journey he takes you across thirty years is as fast-paced and frenetic as the sixty minutes played out on the ice. If there was ever a book that replicates the dizzying highs, the terrifying lows, and the creamy middles of the on-ice product, with all the squirming and screaming in your seat (and freezing your appendages off waiting for the stadium doors to open), this is it. I put the book down exactly twice, once because it was 1:30 AM, and secondly because it was 2:00 AM.

1st person storytelling is always the most compelling. Sam's story of what it's been like to have lived through Hawks darkest years til they finally brought the Cup to Chicago (3 times!) is a great read for those of us who lived it in our own way as well. All this wrapped around the story of trying to find a path in life while losing those closest to him along the way makes for a very engrossing read.

If hockey fans are a weird, little family then Sam is the cool older brother. Great book about not just hockey but family and what it means to love a team.

Great book for any Blackhawk fan. Book might be a little rough for some but that's how it is in the cheap seats. Very enjoyable, funny and heartfelt at times. Enjoy the ride as one great fan saw it.

Just an all around good book. I have been reading Sam's blogs and program for quite some time and the material still felt fresh. Quick read and wonderfully enjoyable. I thoroughly enjoyed the last chapter.

What an awesome perspective on being a Hawks fan through the good, the bad, and the ugly. It opened up parts of my memory bank that I didn't know were still there.

Madison St. Station! I'm not a Hawks fan, I'm not really even a hockey fan, but this book may have turned me into one.

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