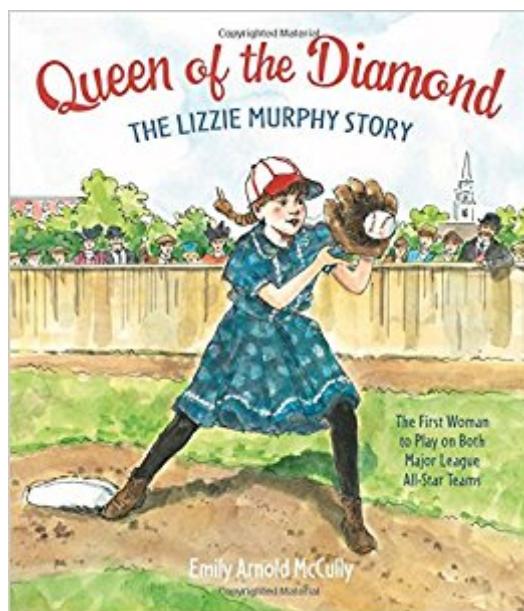


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# Queen Of The Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story



## Synopsis

Lizzie Murphy was good at baseball. In fact, she was better than most of the boys. But she was born in 1900, and back then baseball was not a game for girls. Lizzie practiced with her brother anyway, and then she talked her way onto the local boys' team, first as a batboy, then as a player. Everyone was impressed by her hard catches and fast pitches. By the time she turned fifteen, she was playing for two different amateur boys' teams. When she turned eighteen, Lizzie did something else that women weren't supposed to do: she signed up with a professional baseball team, determined to earn her living playing the game.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #113,630 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation #138 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #150 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-3 •McCully takes a brief look at the career of Lizzie Murphy, the first woman to play in a major-league exhibition game and the first person to play on the New England and American leagues' all-star teams. This story begins in 1900 in Warren, RI, when Murphy's father, who played amateur baseball, declared her a natural at age six. Murphy played catch with her brother, Henry, who was on a local team, but she wanted to play first base. Though her mother voiced the prevailing sentiment of the day ("It's not a game for girls"), Murphy persevered and convinced the captain of her brother's team to let her play when she was eight. Life was not easy in the 1900s, and by age 12, the girl was working in the mills, but she was still athletic, swimming,

running, and playing ice hockey. By age 15, she was a regular on two amateur teams, and at 18, she had a contract. When the manager tried to cheat her out of her pay, Murphy's cleverness and determination took over; she was never short-changed again and played professional ball for the next 17 years. Realistic drawings in acrylic ink reflect the attire of the times, particularly Murphy in her feminine dresses. The scenes that show her being shunned and then gradually accepted by the boys are particularly well done. The dialogue-heavy narrative and subject matter will easily appeal to readers. McCully's book is both a good all-round baseball story and an inspirational story about believing in oneself and overcoming opposition. An excellent choice. •Roxanne Burg, Orange County Public Library, CA

McCully shows a keen eye for the attire and social mores of the era in a rousing story of a girl's dedication to the sport she loves. • Publishers Weekly "Using the classic struggle between the underdog and the powerful, McCully introduces Lizzie Murphy, who, at the beginning of the twentieth century, parlays her love for baseball into a successful career. • The Horn Book "Caldecott medalist McCully tells this compelling story skillfully . . . A rewarding sports biography. • Booklist "McCully's book is both a good all-round baseball story and an inspirational story about believing in oneself and overcoming opposition. An excellent choice. • School Library Journal

Baseball Spring Training has started and we couldn't be more excited. We are a baseball loving family and can't wait to spend time watching our favorite team. Queen of the Diamond is the story of a girl with a natural athletic ability and a true love for baseball and she doesn't let anyone stand in her way. This book isn't just for baseball lovers. It's a book that will inspire you to go out and fight for what you love. #kidsbooksworthreading #kidsbooks #kidsbookstagram #childrensliterature #kidslit #kidlit #queenofthediadmond #baseball #girlslovebaseball #margaretfergusonbooks

My six year old loves softball and she and her team read this together. It is a great conversation starter.

An inspiring story of determination for all little girls. Our granddaughters loved it!

The illustrations are attractive and the biography interesting, but there is a mismatch between the

text and the age-level suggested by this picture book format. The content and vocabulary are too sophisticated for younger children, more suitable for middle school. But a middle-schooler would probably consider the format too childish.

**Summary:** When Lizzie Murphy was growing up in turn-of-the-century Rhode Island, girls didn't play baseball. But Lizzie's brothers played, her father had played, and she wanted to play, too. She became batgirl for her brother's team and carried her father's old ball and glove everywhere. At one game, both teams realized no one had brought a ball. Lizzie had her ball, but refused to lend it unless they'd let her play. After a star turn at first base and four hits, she was a member of the team. She continued to play into adulthood, making a living on the Warren, Rhode Island semipro team. She was the first person of either gender to play on both the National and American Leagues all-star teams. She even got a single off of legendary pitcher Satchel Paige while playing on a Negro League team. She finally retired from baseball in 1935, at the age of 40.

**Pros:** An interesting and little-known story about a woman athlete who refused to give up her dream despite enormous obstacles. Emily Arnold McCully doesn't disappoint with either the story or the illustrations.

**Cons:** Too bad Lizzie didn't blaze a trail into MLB for other women.

Lizzie Murphy was the first Woman to play on both Major League and All-Star teams in the United States. What surprises me most is that her legacy did not continue on where we see women in the Major Leagues now. This story boasts skill, liveliness, women's suffrage, gender equality and most of all, fun. Written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully, published as a Margaret Ferguson Book by Farrar Straus Giroux. #PB #biography #NF #baseball

We borrowed this book from our local library, but it's so fantastic that I'll be buying a copy for my daughter. There are so many good lessons in this book for young girls - you can do anything a boy can do (and don't let anyone tell you otherwise!), stand up for yourself, be confident in your abilities and women deserve to be paid the same as men! I particularly liked how Lizzie's male teammates supported her in her demand to the manager to be paid what they were. Just a great book all around, so much so that it compelled me to write my first review!

My granddaughter (age 7) first grade loved this book. Took it to school and the teacher read it to the

whole class

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