

Scott Gummer

Hello and thank you, I truly appreciate your interest in *Parents Behaving Badly*.

I vividly recall the moment I had the idea for this book: I was sitting in the bleachers watching a game at our neighborhood Little League park, and one of the players on our son's Majors team booted an easy ground ball—as a 12-year-old kid will sometimes do. As the other team scored a run I grumbled, “You’ve got to be f***ing kidding me” under my breath...or so I thought. A friend’s kindergartener daughter sitting in front of me spun around pie-eyed and pointing—I was totally busted.

I was mortified. I have coached everything from boys T-ball to the high school varsity girls golf team that won back-to-back league championships, and I always maintained a positive perspective and balance as a coach. I vowed I would never become one of “those parents”...until the moment I realized I was one. The silver lining is that in that moment I had an epiphany about the story of an earnest dad just trying to do right by the kids in spite of the shenanigans of overzealous parents and hyper-intense coaches who all too often suck the fun out of the game for the kids.

Bubbling beneath that storyline are subplots that examine the ways we connect with our parents, our children, and others in world made increasingly insular by technology, as well as differing perspectives of men and women on subjects like fidelity. To that, here’s a provocative question: Did Ben cheat?

I would love to hear your take on that, as well as any other thoughts you care to share, and I invite you to e-mail me on scottgummer@gmail.com.

And remember: It’s all fun and games until the parents get involved!

Cheers,

