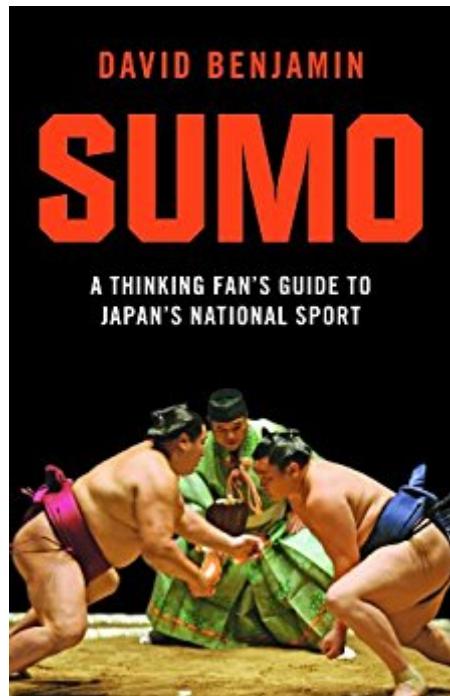


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Sumo: A Thinking Fan's Guide To Japan's National Sport (Tuttle Classics)



Synopsis

Sumo is a fresh and funny introduction to the fascinating world of sumo, Japan's national sport. Author David Benjamin reveals sumo to be an action-packed sport populated by genuine athletes who employ clever strategies and techniques to overcome their gargantuan opponents. Sumo provides an engaging, witty, behind-the-scenes look at sumo today. This sumo book is a thoroughly updated revision of the popular *The Joy of Sumo*. Benjamin's enthusiasm and insight into the sport remain unmatched, and his humorous descriptions of the personalities and pageantry of the sport will have you laughing loud and often. A complete guide to sumo for both curious novices and long-time fans, you'll learn about: The greatest sumo match ever The many strategies employed by wrestlers, such as "the Hooker," "the Bulldozer" and "the Matador" Sumo's most stunning move Why rikishi sometimes throw a match the backroom politics that influence who is promoted to the highest ranks The "foreign invasion" of sumo and what it means for the sport's future

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Customer Reviews

David Benjamin tells us that he is a sumo fan. He abhors those who see sumo as some sort of

cultural ceremony. It's a sport, he says, and it deserves to be treated like a sport. I couldn't agree more. I've followed every basho for the last ten years, cheered for the underdogs, and said fond farewells to the retirees. Upon buying Benjamin's book, I was eager to delve deeper into the world of sumo--as a sport--and learn more about what makes it tick.Instead, I found page after page telling me that sumo wrestlers are fat, uneducated brutes who laze around eating food all day. Because the writing would get stale if he simply kept repeating "By the way, did I tell you they're fat?", Benjamin thinks up creative ways of reminding us: they're Fatsoyamas, Blubberbutts, Lardies, Tubs, Great Pumpkins, and more. Sumo is: "Naked men. With breasts. Jiggling. Embracing. Touching each other..." The dohyo is a sandbox, and the ref is "the guy in the pajamas".Because it's too difficult to remember all those names, Benjamin recommends nicknaming the rikishi. Some of the nicknames he uses are: The Sweathog, Baby Huey, Route 66, Trashcan, Dimples, The A-hole, and Humpty Dumpty. One rikishi he nicknamed The Goldfish because "a disproportionate share of the fat in his body had migrated to his face, puffing it up like a terminal case of mumps and squeezing his lips into a permanent, pudgy, protuberant 'O'". And Benjamin provides a convenient way of classifying the various rikishi. There are the Jocks, the Hippos, the Butterballs, and the Cabdrivers.Benjamin claims to be a fan of sumo as a sport, but whatever wisdom he has to share is buried under juvenile writing full of fat jokes and failed attempts at wit.

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