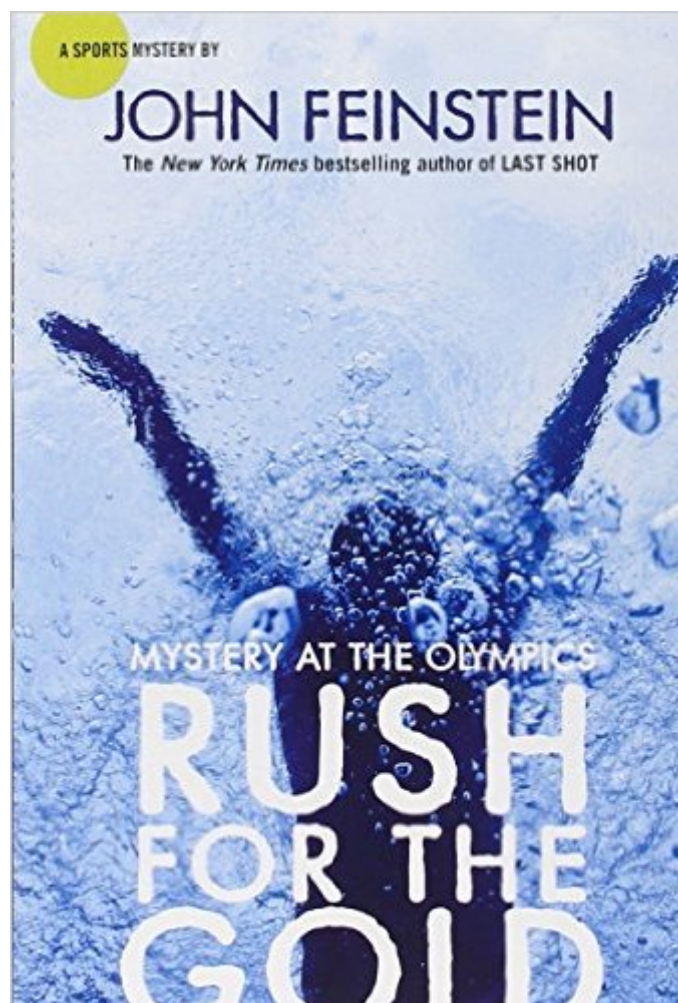


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Rush For The Gold: Mystery At The Olympics (The Sports Beat, 6)



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling sportswriter John Feinstein dives headfirst into a scandal of Olympic proportions in this exciting sports mystery. A Teen sports reporter Susan Carol is competing as a swimmer at her first-ever Olympic games. It's the opportunity of a lifetime, and her best friend Stevie is both amazed and envious. Usually they cover sporting events together, now he's covering her. But Stevie can't shake the feeling that something's not right. Everyone wants a piece of Susan Carol's success—agents, sponsors, the media. Just how far will they go to ensure that America's newest Olympic darling wins gold? John Feinstein has been praised as "the best writer of sports books in America today" (The Boston Globe), and he proves it again in this fast-paced novel. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Series: The Sports Beat

Paperback: 336 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (84 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #131,319 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Children's Books

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Detectives #2578 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

I am always surprised by how well known John Feinstein is. Yesterday I had brought along *Rush for the Gold*, Feinstein's newest book to be released in May to our library meeting. This is another installment in his kids sports mystery series. A few of my librarian friends who do not appear to be overly athletic or into sports commented on how they enjoyed his adult books. While I enjoy his

books, I was very much unaware of how many different types of people enjoy his work. Rush for the Gold is my latest Vine acquisition. I have always enjoyed reading about Stevie and Susan Carol at the various sporting events they are able to attend. Not only are their mysteries suspenseful, but Feinstein includes a lot of information about the sport his book features and the different athletes and rules within that sport. The London Olympic games are just 84 days away, so it is no surprise that this latest book features Susan and Stevie at the London games. While Stevie is reporting as usual, Susan Carol is competing in the games as a swimmer. She has grown taller and gained weight in the past year and her swimming career has really taken off. The sudden fame is a lot to contend with and even Susan Carol's dad is a bit overwhelmed by the idea of millions of dollars in his daughter's future. In typical fashion, there is more going on than just the games. Stevie begins to wonder if someone is trying to rig who is winning the gold medal in swimming events. Of course he and Susan Carol begin sleuthing around to try and solve the mystery on their own. Although this is part of a series, it could certainly stand on its own. There are references to Susan Carol and Stevie's experience at Wimbledon in a prior mystery, and I was happy I had already read that title.

This was an interesting story that takes a closer look at the lives of elite young athletes. Susan Carol Anderson is an elite swimmer. When the story starts she is reliving the World Championships in Shanghai instead of listening to the agents from the Lightning Fast Agency who are trying to get her to sign a contract with them. All of a sudden she has become a celebrity and, since she is a very pretty young woman, agencies are lining up to represent her. Her father decides to sign with Lightning Fast. Susan Carol is suddenly under even more pressure as she gets ready for the Olympics. She is constantly trying to balance the demands of her agents and the needs of her coach. And her father is too dazzled by the thought of the huge amount of money that she might be able to make to pay attention to what Susan Carol really needs. Luckily, Susan Carol is a level-headed young woman who has friends who really do want the best for her. Her best friend, boyfriend, and reporting partner, Steve Thomas, is watching as all this happens to his friend. Instead of working together to find and write the stories as they did in five previous mysteries, now Susan Carol is the story. Stevie has the advantage of being able to see the whole situation from outside and begins to get suspicious about just how far the agents will go to make Susan Carol a money-making star for them. I liked the close-up view of the inside world of young elite athletes. It was interesting to get a look at the backstage activities like sponsors, agents, and endorsements. I liked that the book combined real people, like Bob Costas, Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte and even the Queen of England, with the fictional stars of this story. It added a lot of realism.

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