

## Fever Pitch

As soon as the Red Sox won the World Series last fall I knew that as soon as America rolled its collective tongue back in to its mouth the films would start. But, sooner after than I had expected Fever Pitch premiered. The story is of Ben, a Boston area teacher played by Jimmy Fallon and the two loves of his life, primarily the Red Sox, and then his girlfriend.

In the winter he is a man like you or I. He conducts his job, goes about his business, without any irregular activity. A fan out of season, but not a fish out of water. But in the summer love affair with the Sox is more of an obsession. He has Red Sox everything, t-shirts, bed-sheets, a phone. He holds annual parties to divide up the season tickets that his uncle left to him. He travels to spring training every spring and makes a fool of himself in front of the cameras. What happens when a girl, even a girl as attractive as Drew Barrymore who plays Lindsay (the girlfriend), comes into the mix?

Playing second fiddle to the Sox, Lindsay struggles to stay happy with Ben. Eventually even leaving him briefly. But in the two men that is Ben, summer guy: the flamboyant fan, and winter guy: the laid back, considerate teacher, she finds something oddly stable. One could say that their relationship was like the 2004 Red Sox strong and resilient through even some tough games. And Fever Pitch, as the Red Sox season, ends on a shiningly happy although unsurprisingly similar note.

By Dan Smith