

# A Few Seconds of Panic: Life as an NFL kicker

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Although I don't follow him regularly when he appears on *All Things Considered* and didn't when he wrote for *The Wall Street Journal*, I'm a quiet fan of Stefan Fatsis's books because he writes about joining a world most of us don't get to see. I previously wrote about his [excursion into the world of competitive Scrabble](#). Today, it's his book *A Few Seconds of Panic*, or more formally, *A Few Seconds of Panic: A 5-Foot-8, 170-Pound, 43-Year-Old Sportswriter Plays in the NFL*, another example of the [Catchy title: Long boring subtitle](#) book title fad. [Update: Now [available in paperback](#).] Fatsis convinces a professional football team to let him join them for a pre-season game as a place kicker. From there, he observes the working of an NFL team from the inside. NPR's *Only a Game* interviewed him in August 2008. [[mp3](#)] (Fatsis is a regular member of Slate's new weekly sports podcast [Hang Up and Listen](#). He mentions his kicking career only every other podcast now.)

(And I wasted far too much time on what is rumored to be another Stefan Fatsis production, *Name of the Year*. Here's a list of [previous winners](#).)

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