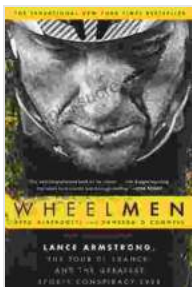


Lance Armstrong, the Tour de France, and the Greatest Sports Conspiracy Ever

Lance Armstrong is one of the most controversial figures in sports history. He was once celebrated as a hero, winning the Tour de France seven times and overcoming cancer. But in 2012, he was stripped of his titles and banned from cycling for life after being found guilty of using performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs). The scandal surrounding Armstrong's fall from grace is one of the most fascinating and complex in sports history.

Armstrong's Early Life and Career

Lance Armstrong was born in Plano, Texas, in 1971. He began racing bicycles at a young age and quickly showed promise. In 1993, he turned professional and joined the Motorola cycling team. Armstrong quickly became one of the top riders in the world, winning several major races, including the Tour DuPont and the Clásica de San Sebastián. In 1999, he joined the US Postal Service cycling team, which would become his home for the next several years.



Wheelmen: Lance Armstrong, the Tour de France, and the Greatest Sports Conspiracy Ever by Reed Albergotti

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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File size : 6792 KB
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Print length : 385 pages
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Armstrong's Tour de France Dominance

In 1999, Armstrong won his first Tour de France. He would go on to win the race six more times, from 2001 to 2005. Armstrong's dominance of the Tour de France was unprecedented. He became a global icon and was hailed as one of the greatest athletes of all time. Armstrong's success was attributed to his hard work, determination, and natural talent. However, there were also rumors that he was using PEDs to enhance his performance.

The Doping Scandal

In 2005, Armstrong was accused of using PEDs by his former teammate, Floyd Landis. Landis claimed that Armstrong had used EPO, a banned blood-boosting drug, and human growth hormone. Armstrong denied the allegations, but the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) began an investigation. In 2012, USADA released a report that concluded that Armstrong had used PEDs throughout his career. Armstrong was stripped of his Tour de France titles and banned from cycling for life.

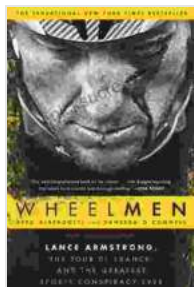
The Aftermath of the Scandal

Armstrong's fall from grace was swift and dramatic. He lost his sponsorships, his reputation, and his place in the cycling world. He was also sued by the US government for fraud and conspiracy. In 2013, Armstrong admitted to using PEDs in an interview with Oprah Winfrey. He apologized for his actions and said that he was "deeply sorry" for the pain he had caused.

The Legacy of Lance Armstrong

Lance Armstrong's legacy is complex and controversial. He was once celebrated as a hero, but he is now remembered as a cheat. His story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of PEDs and the importance of fair play. Armstrong's scandal also raised questions about the integrity of the Tour de France and the cycling world as a whole. The sport has since taken steps to crack down on doping, but the shadow of Armstrong's scandal still lingers.

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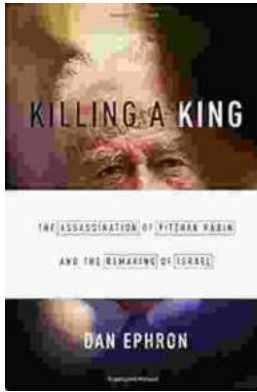
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