



Lance Armstrong: Tour de Force

Daniel Coyle

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The story of the 2004 Tour De France and Armstrong's historic victory - now expunged from the record books. 1st edition. 8vo. DJ Pricecelipped. Very good condition.

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352 pages

Amazon Review

Lance Armstrong's achievement (as vividly detailed in Daniel Coyle's *Lance Armstrong: Tour de Force*) has been one of the most astonishing in recent sporting history, not least for the reasons detailed in the book's strapline: *tough guys, flawed heroes and one man's battle for ultimate supremacy*. This is the remarkable story of a man who triumphed over all the odds -- a behind-the-scenes record of the 2004 professional cycling season and the manner in which Armstrong landed his sixth Tour de France victory. What makes the book particularly inspiring is the fact that Armstrong is no superman -- he talks about the many strikes against him (his age, the dissolving of his team and -- most of all -- his triumph over potentially lethal illness (his struggle against cancer is, of course, well-known). Coyle takes us from the cyclist's turbulent youth in Texas through his many achievements in the cycling field (notably his near loss in the 2003 tour), and his massive struggles against a series of disasters that would have floored most of us: his difficult divorce and subsequent separation from his children and, finally, the terrifying revelation of his cancer. The section on the various solutions that Armstrong tried (including new age healers and radical Italian sports doctors) makes for particularly fascinating reading: as Armstrong realised that his solutions lay elsewhere, there is a genuinely inspirational note here. Equally fascinating are the descriptions of his obsessive fans, the mind games he was forced to play (both with his opponents and corporate heavyweights), and, of course, his much-publicised relationship with rock star Sheryl Crow. The climax, his victory in the 2004 Tour de France, rounds out one of the best sport biographies in years. --Barry Forshaw Review

'Lance Armstrong is one of those few cyclists whose fame transcends the limits of his sport.' BBC News 'His world is not only that of cycling, it is the world of American celebrity: of Super Bowl parties with Elton John, weekends at Kevin Costner's house, lunch with Brad Pitt.' Observer From the Inside Flap
Tour De Force is an extraordinary story of greatness pushed to its limits. It's behind the scenes look at the 2004 professional cycling season and Lance Armstrong's journey to his historic sixth Tour De France victory.

Made newly vulnerable by age, fame, defections from his team, and an unprecedented army of challengers, Armstrong fights on all fronts to do what he does like no one else: exert his will to win. That will - which famously propelled him beyond his temultuous Texas youth and beyond cancer to a level of achievement and fame arguably unparalleled in sports - is revealed in new and sometimes startling dimension.

We see how Armstrong rebuilds after his near loss in the 2003 Tour, discovering new strategies to cope with his changing body. We see how he copes after his painful divorce and separation from his children. We see how he operates among controversial Italian sports doctors, New Age healers, aggressive lawyers, obsessed fans, and jittery corporations (not to mention his girlfriend, the rock star Sheryl Crow).

We see the subtle mind games Armstrong plays with his US Postal Team, his opponents and himself. We see him through the eyes of competitors and his close circle of friends, as well as explore his powerful relationship with his mother Linda. We see what happens when he's faced with a potentially devastating book about his alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs. And finally we see it all culminate in the 2004 Tour De France, the toughest sports event on the planet.

Tour De Force offers the first real journey into an arena packed with underdogs, gurus, and original characters. In doing so it provides a penetrating appraisal of Lance Armstrong, the often-inspiring, wholly remarkable yet flawed hero, and the world that shapes him.

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