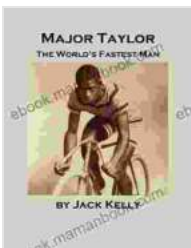


Major Taylor: The World's Fastest Man



Major Taylor: The World's Fastest Man by Markus Zusak

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 150 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor, born on November 26, 1878, was a champion track cyclist from Indianapolis, Indiana. Taylor was an exceptional athlete who achieved tremendous success in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, gaining international recognition and breaking numerous world records in the sport of cycling. This article delves into the remarkable life, achievements, and legacy of Major Taylor, a true pioneer who faced adversity and shattered racial barriers to become known worldwide as 'The World's Fastest Man.'

Early Life and Inspiration

Taylor was born into a large family in Indianapolis, Indiana. His father was a former slave who worked as a barber, and his mother worked as a laundress. Taylor grew up in a poor neighborhood and had to start working at a young age to help support his family. He began riding a bicycle as a

way to get around the city, and he soon discovered his natural talent for the sport.

In 1895, Taylor met Louis "Pops" Somerville, a former professional cyclist who became his mentor and coach. Somerville recognized Taylor's potential and helped him develop his skills. Taylor also drew inspiration from the legendary African American cyclist, Marshall "Major" Walthour, who had won several national championships in the 1890s.

Professional Career

Taylor turned professional in 1896 and quickly became one of the top cyclists in the United States. He won his first major race in 1898, the one-mile National Championship at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Taylor went on to win several more major races in the United States and Europe, and he set several world records in the process.

In 1899, Taylor won the world 2-mile championship in Montreal, Canada, becoming the first African American to win a world cycling championship. This victory made Taylor a global celebrity and earned him the nickname "The World's Fastest Man."

Obstacles and Discrimination

Despite his success, Taylor faced significant discrimination throughout his career. He was often denied entry to races and hotels, and he was frequently subjected to racist taunts and insults. In 1902, Taylor was forced to leave the United States after being threatened by a mob of white supremacists. He spent the next several years racing in Europe, where he continued to break records and win championships.

Later Life and Legacy

Taylor returned to the United States in 1904 and continued to race until 1910. He retired from cycling at the age of 32 and went on to work as a coach and a bicycle mechanic. Taylor died in Chicago in 1932 at the age of 54.

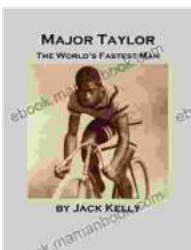
Major Taylor's legacy is one of perseverance and determination. He overcame tremendous obstacles to achieve success in a sport that was dominated by white athletes. Taylor was a pioneer who helped to break down racial barriers and inspire generations of African American athletes.

Major Taylor was a true legend in the world of cycling. He was a champion athlete who set numerous world records and became the first African American to win a world cycling championship. Taylor's achievements were all the more remarkable considering the discrimination he faced throughout his career. He was a pioneer who helped to break down racial barriers and inspire generations of athletes. His legacy continues to inspire and motivate people around the world.

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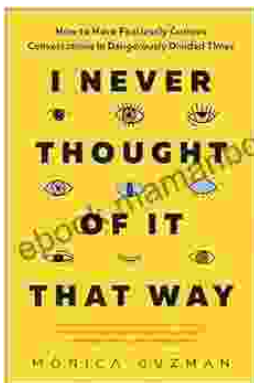
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