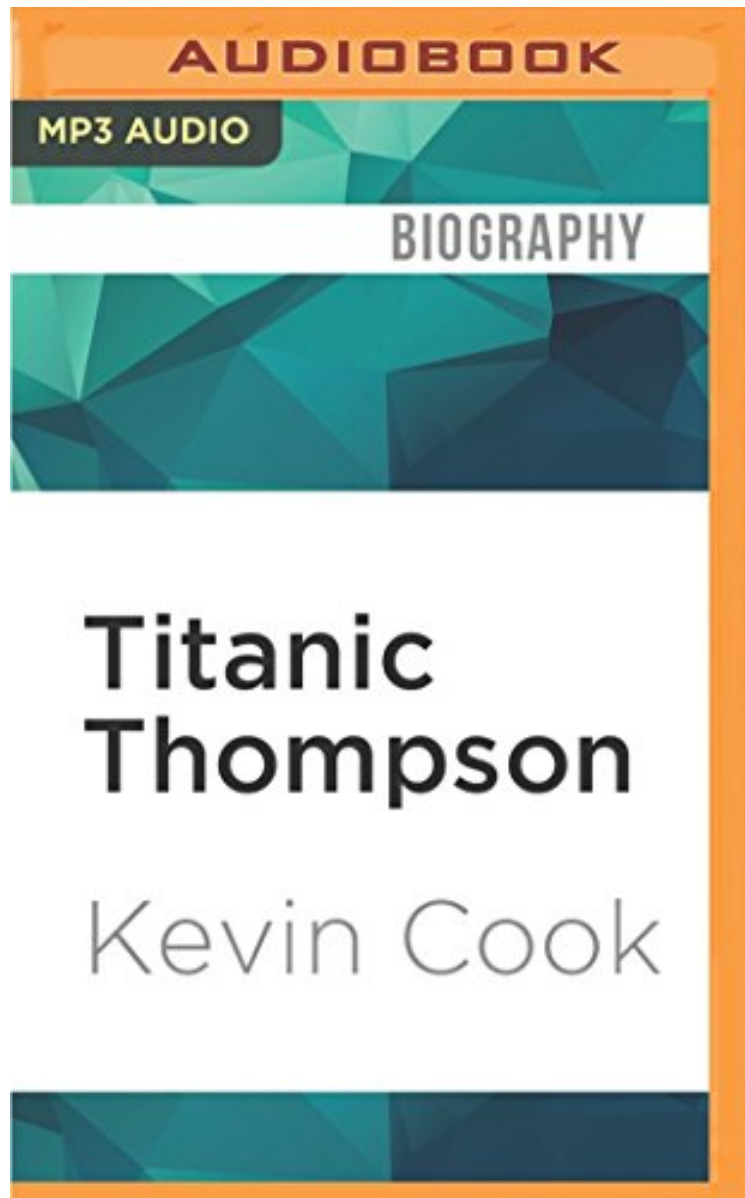


[Ebook free] Titanic Thompson: The Man Who Bet on Everything

Titanic Thompson: The Man Who Bet on Everything

Kevin Cook

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Kevin Cook : Titanic Thompson: The Man Who Bet on Everything before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Titanic Thompson: The Man Who Bet on Everything:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Con Man By Bob Ferrier The life this man lead was simply unbelievable. He was a con man but extremely loveable. I enjoyed the book so much I might just read it gain soon. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By saj167 good read. interesting fellow. 0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. free story of a pro you probably never heard of. By CustomerGood read

Capturing the spirit of a freewheeling era, this rollicking biography brings to life the gambler-hero who inspired *Guys and Dolls*. Born in a log cabin in the Ozarks, Alvin "Titanic" Thompson (1892-1974) traveled with his golf clubs, a .45 revolver, and a suitcase full of cash. He won and lost millions playing cards, dice, golf, pool, and dangerous games of his own invention. He killed five men and married five women, each one a teenager on her wedding day. He ruled New York's underground craps games in the 1920s and was Damon Runyon's model for slick-talking Sky Masterson. Dominating the links in the pre-PGA Tour years, Thompson may have been the greatest golfer of his time, teeing up with Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Lee Trevino, and Ray Floyd. He also traded card tricks with Houdini, conned Al Capone, lost a million to Minnesota Fats, and then teamed up with Fats and won it all back. A terrific listen for anyone who has ever laid a bet, *Titanic Thompson* recaptures the colorful times of a singular figure: America's original road gambler.

From Publishers Weekly Cook (Tommy's Honor), a former Sports Illustrated editor, introduces his portrait of the larger-than-life "Titanic" Thompson (1892-1974) as a self-made man from the Ozarks who loved games of chance and had a knack for winning incredible sums of money. In a lyrical account of the gambling legend who inspired Damon Runyon's character Sky Masterson (*Guys and Dolls*), Cook describes Thompson as a "rogue wind that lifted girls' skirts and turned gamblers' pockets inside out." Thompson possessed the steel nerves of a card shark, the bravado of an outlaw, and the staying power of a satyr, preferring his girls young and pretty. Rumor has it that he drove a swank Pierce-Arrow (driving from town to town to ply his hustling trade), carried a gun (he reportedly killed five men) and a suitcase full of cash, and rubbed elbows with Houdini, Capone, and gamblers Arnold "the Brain" Rothstein and Nick the Greek. Thompson excelled at golf before PGA Tours began, competing with professional golfers Ben Hogan and Sam Snead. Cook's raucous narrative introduces readers to an eccentric, fascinating personality. 20 illus. (Nov.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist In one respect, this biography of a gambler intersects with Cook's previous title, *Tommy's Honor* (2007): it involves beaucoup de golf. For the Thompson in question whose real name was Alvin Thomas was skillful enough to set up country-club hustles with such future icons as then-unknowns Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson. However, Titanic's interest was not in the sport but in the spread, and as late as his 70s (in the 1960s), Thompson was booking wagers on a match he arranged between kids named Lee Trevino and Raymond Floyd. By then, Thompson may have aged, but his wives never did: five times married, Titanic affianced each one in her teens, winning dames over with his charm, looks, bankroll, and dangerous, predatory lifestyle. Cook has Thompson killing at least five men. Fascinated by how Thompson, a clever conniver who Cook recounts as cheating at poker, dice, checkers, billiards, horses, and, naturally, golf, was never plugged himself, readers will revel in every rambunctious page about an outlaw spirit who lurked on the frontiers of society, sports, and fair play. -- Gilbert Taylor 'Ever heard of Titanic Thompson? Me neither, until I read this enthralling and compulsively readable account of his life' Independent on Sunday 'A more colourful, exciting biography might emerge this year, but I wouldn't put money on it' The Times 'Ridiculously engaging' Metro