



Live Fast, Die Young the Life and Times of Harry Greb

Stephen Compton

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Live Fast, Die Young tells the story of Harry Greb, the Pittsburgh Windmill, one of the most feared boxers in history. Greb terrified champions and contenders across three weight divisions for nearly a decade. Greb would become famous for fighting anyone regardless of size or race. Prior to his untimely death he harbored a long standing ambition to challenge for legendary heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey's title despite rarely weighing over 165 pounds. Along the way he won the world middleweight championship, American light heavyweight championship, and became the only man to defeat Dempsey's eventual conqueror Gene Tunney. Greb would become one of those outrageous characters that made the Roaring Twenties roar. It is a story that could only be found in the history pages of early 20th century America. He was born the son of an immigrant father who fled Germany one step ahead of the law and a first generation mother in Pittsburgh at a time when the city was helping to usher in the Second Industrial Revolution. The rugged, hard-working men who surrounded Greb during his formative years influenced a toughness and work ethic that carried him to the highest levels of one of the most unforgiving sports. As Harry gained fame and fortune he witnessed the world devolve into chaos as World War I broke out, the passing of Prohibition, the birth of the Jazz Age, and the Golden Age of Sports. Throughout these historic events Harry often found himself right in the middle of things and happy to be there. The author tells the story of one of the most colorful periods in history and one that period's most colorful and unforgettable characters in Live Fast, Die Young: The Life and Times of Harry Greb.

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