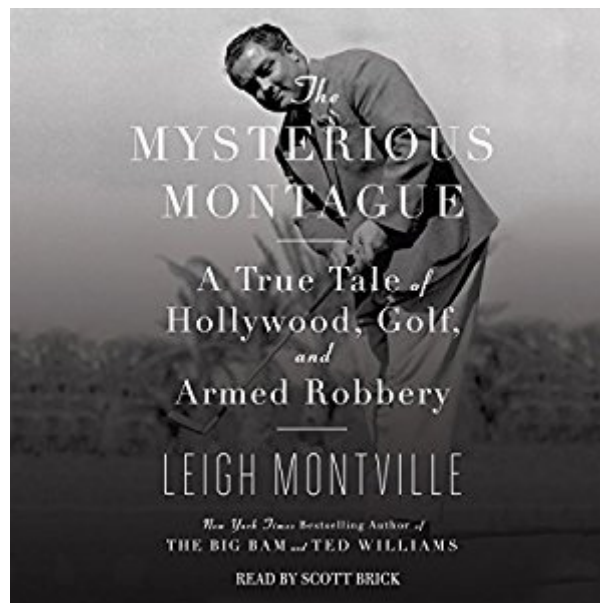




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The Mysterious Montague: A True Tale Of Hollywood, Golf, And Armed Robbery



Synopsis

He was a 1930s golf legend and Hollywood trickster who adamantly refused to be photographed. He never played professionally, yet sports-writing legend Grantland Rice still heralded him as "the greatest golfer in the world." Then, in 1937, the secrets of John Montague's past were exposed—leading to a sensational trial that captivated the nation. From three-time New York Times bestselling author Leigh Montville: John Montague was a boisterous enigma. He had a bagful of golf tricks, on and off the course. He could chip a ball across a room into a highball glass, and knock a bird off a wire from 170 yards—and when the big man arrived in Hollywood in the early 1930s, he quickly became a celebrity among celebrities. He lived for a time with Oliver Hardy (whom he could lift, one-handed, onto the country club bar) and played golf with everyone from Howard Hughes and W. C. Fields to Babe Ruth and his close friend Bing Crosby, whom he famously beat while playing only with a rake, a shovel, and a bat. Yet strangely Montague never entered a professional tournament, and in a town that thrived on publicity, he never allowed his image to be captured on film. The reasons became clear when a Time magazine photographer snapped his picture with a telephoto lens—and police in upstate New York quickly recognized Montague as a fugitive wanted for armed robbery. As Montague was indicted in the tiny upstate town of Jay, New York, hordes of national media descended and turned a star-studded legal carnival into the most talked about trial of its day—the trial of "the Mysterious Montague." From the glamour of 1930s Hollywood, to John Montague's extraordinary skill and triumphs on the golf course, to the shady world of Adirondack rumrunners and bootleggers, three-time New York Times bestselling author Leigh Montville captures a man and an era with extraordinary color, verve, and energy. The Mysterious Montague is Leigh Montville's most entertaining achievement to date. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

This turned out to be an entertaining novel. I've enjoyed reading Leigh Montville since he wrote for Sports Illustrated. If you're a golfer, or enjoy sports based novels, you'll enjoy this one.

Starting with an armed robbery in upstate New York and ending in a Hollywood graveyard filled with stars, this story of the rise and fall of a awe-inspiring golfer ground up by America's fickle taste in celebrities can be read on a surface level as a linear biography of a sideshow performer who fell short of the American Dream as the public watched, then went away. But beneath the story lies a commentary about who we are Americans are as a people and it isn't very pretty. While a certain cultural literacy of America and show business from 1930 to 1970 can be helpful, it is by no means essential to the enjoyment of this the book. Filled with press clips that both hail and revile the title character(s), and dropping more celebrity names than a than a Hollywood social climber, The Mysterious Montague left me saddened. Montague/Moore seems to be a nice enough (perhaps) blue collar guy who got blinded by the white spotlight of life among the rich and famous. His ultimate fall is predictable, but that doesn't lessen the Greek tragedy aspects of it. There is depth hidden in the seemingly straight-ahead sportswriting in this book. Perhaps the ultimate moral of the story is that you don't have to pursue celebrity; sometimes it will find you, and eat you for lunch.

This is one of those books that's very interesting and should definitely be made into a movie. Unfortunately the book is written in such a way as it is more of an "account" of an interesting person, rather than a story told in such a way that it draws you into his life and time. More in the style of a documentary. Very interesting and any golfer over the age of 40 would probably enjoy it. Since many people who mentioned are from a long away era, if you don't know who they are, or care, it will be less interesting.

Bought this book as a gift for a guy who reads very few books, but is an avid golfer. He loved it. He gave it back and suggested I read it as well and said it was great. We both had read an excerpt from the book sometime ago and enjoyed it.

When God created characters he broke the mold with this one one of the most original stories that I have read in a long time

Leigh Montville is as talented as any sportswriter working today, and this book proves once again that a great writer can make grass growing something worth reading about, not that the title character is boring. "The Mysterious Montague" is a tale about a con artist who happened to play great golf. All the characters in this true life saga are long passed away, so Montville relies on newspaper articles to provide the backbone of his research. The main character remains a mystery once the reader finishes the book, though having been finely entertained by the author in the process. Highly recommended.

Engrossed, by the whole tale which just happened to be true. The book puts you in that moment of time as well as the places it occurs! Recommended for anyone who loves a golf, Hollywood celebrities, and adventure. JL

This was a gift for a friend who is an avid golfer. He'd never heard this story and was fascinated by it.

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