



Strides: Running Through History With an Unlikely Athlete

By Benjamin Cheever

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Acclaimed novelist Benjamin Cheever--author of *The Plagiarist*, *Famous After Death*, and *The Good Nanny*--brings his buoyant literary style to this impassioned memoir about the sport that changed his life.

From Pheidippides, who ran the first marathon in 490 BC--bringing news to Athens of the Greek victory on the plains of Marathon--to our own soldiers in Iraq today, running is an integral part of human culture and legend. In *Strides*, heralded author Benjamin Cheever explores the role of running in human history while interspersing this account with revelations of his own decades-long devotion to the sport.

Cheever has traveled the world writing features for *Runner's World* magazine, and he draws from this rich experience on every page. His adventures have taken him to Kenya in search of the secrets of the world's fastest long-distance runners and to a 10-K race with American soldiers in Baghdad. Cheever celebrates the quotidian personal satisfaction of a morning run and the more exotic pleasures of the Medoc Marathon in Bordeaux, where fine wines are served at water stations and the first prize is the winner's weight in grand crus. He shares vivid moments from the New York Marathon and waxes rhapsodic about the granddaddy of American distance events--the Boston Marathon. But what truly distinguishes *Strides* as a memorable read is the unique lens through which this sparkling writer explores our deep bond to running, an experience he likens to that of being able to fly.

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Strides: Running Through History With an Unlikely Athlete By Benjamin Cheever Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Cheever (*The Plagiarist*) makes an erratic dash through his lifetime of marathon running while offering facts about the sport throughout history. Having discovered running in 1977, at age 28, while working at *Reader's Digest*, and stuck in an unhappy marriage, he became more and more involved in the sport over the next 30 years, losing weight, gaining a new body type and the much-needed confidence he lacked growing up as the son of the famous writer John Cheever. Alternating with his personal memories of marathon running from races in Yonkers; New York City; Boston; Médoc, France; and Baghdad, Cheever explores some troubling questions, such as whether running is really natural for mankind and even good for your health (hunters and gatherers weren't efficient runners, yet humans prove they possess impressive endurance running). Cheever tracks examples from Homer to the earliest and later Olympics, from races in the Dark Ages to the art of pedestrianism to Kenyan secrets of success. Cheever fills his pages with accounts by runners for whom the sport altered them profoundly. A terrific list of his 26.2 favorite books on running caps Cheever's springy, upbeat pep talk for the runnerati. (Oct.)

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Review

“Cheever, a former journalist and onetime copy editor at *Reader's Digest*, melds reportorial skills, literary talent and a wicked sense of humor to capture the irony and indefatigable spirit of running in the 21st century....Beginners will relate to Cheever's inauspicious initial forays into fitness and exercise, and veteran runners can share his enthusiasm for the Kenyans and other leaders of the pack. The result is a joyous and inspirational ode to our transformative sport.” ?*Jim Hage, The Washington Post*

About the Author

BENJAMIN CHEEVER has published in the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, *Gourmet*, and *Runner's World*. He has taught at Bennington College and The New School for Social Research. The author of the highly praised novels *The Plagiarist*, *The Partisan*, and *Famous After Death*, and editor of *The Letters of John Cheever*, he lives in Pleasantville, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Kuykendall:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a problem. What people must be consider when those information which is within the former life are difficult to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Strides: Running Through History With an Unlikely Athlete as your daily resource information.

Hilary Williams:

This book untitled Strides: Running Through History With an Unlikely Athlete to be one of several books which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail store or you can order it through online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this reserve from your list.

Gayle Skinner:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Strides: Running Through History With an Unlikely Athlete, you could enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Lynn Jones:

This Strides: Running Through History With an Unlikely Athlete is brand-new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information given it relief your hunger associated with. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having tiny amount of digest in reading this Strides: Running Through History With an Unlikely Athlete can be the light food for you because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get through anyone. These books acquire itself in the form which can be reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in guide form make them feel drowsy even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a guide especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for anyone. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book variety for your better life as well as knowledge.

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