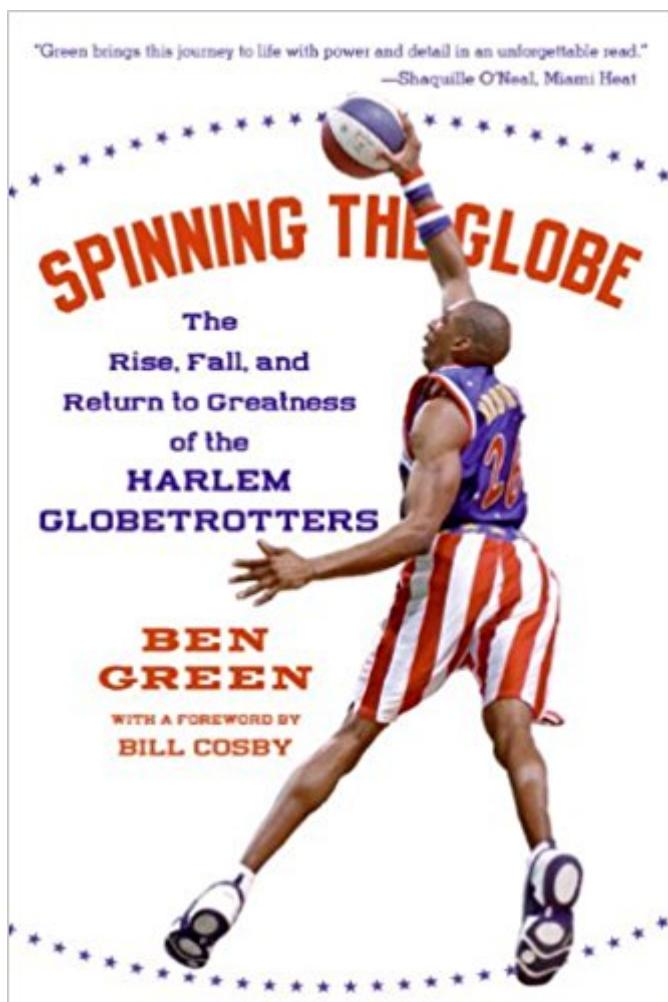


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Spinning The Globe: The Rise, Fall, And Return To Greatness Of The Harlem Globetrotters



Synopsis

Before Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Julius Erving, or Michael Jordan—before Magic Johnson and Showtime—the Harlem Globetrotters revolutionized basketball and spread the game around the world. In *Spinning the Globe*, author Ben Green tells the story of this extraordinary franchise and iconic American institution. We follow the Globetrotters' rise from backwoods obscurity during the harsh years of the Great Depression to become the best basketball team in the country and, by the early 1950s, the most popular sports franchise in the world. Green brings to life their struggles with racism and segregation, and their influence upon a nation's views about race and sport. We witness the Globetrotters' fall from grace to the brink of bankruptcy in the early 1990s, and their ultimate rebirth under Mannie Jackson today, as they once again amaze kids and families around the world. Now in paperback, this is the true and complete story of their amazing eighty years as a team, told with lyrical prose and masterful storytelling by Ben Green.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For certain generations, the song "Sweet Georgia Brown" immediately brings to mind the Harlem Globetrotters and their on-court comedy. Long before they became the clown princes of basketball, however, the Trotters were America's most popular sports team. Green (Before His Time) traces the team's history back to its roots in Depression-era Chicago and its early barnstorming years. Fans who remember the team through their television appearances in the early 1970s are in for an

education, as Green undercuts the reputation of Meadowlark Lemon, whom other Trotters openly criticize as a poor player, while celebrating legends from the '40s and '50s such as Marques Haynes and Goose Tatum. During those years, the team was already honing its gags, but the players were also regularly competing against the nation's best college players—and even beating NBA squads before the league became racially integrated. Green's straightforward but respectful approach carries over into a balanced handling of the "minstrel show" reputation that dogged the Globetrotters almost from the beginning, as well as a brief account of the team's modern revival after being bought by a former player. The overall effect of this vividly rendered history is to make readers wish they could see the Globetrotters it describes in action. 16-page b&w photo insert.

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...an ambitious, engaging book on the history of the Globetrotters. (Black Issues Book Review)

In spite of my previous knowledge on the Globetrotters' history, it's incredible how many facts were included that I never previously knew. Honest and revealing book.

Purchased this book for a friend; she loves it!

I remember seeing the Trotters as a kid in the 80s. This book captured that magic, and acted as a great history lesson

HIGHLY RECOMMEND THIS BOOK. I AM ABOUT HALF WAY THRU. VERY DETAILED TELLING WHAT THEY WENT THRU, TRAVELLING BY CAR STARTING IN 1929 THRU OUT THE UNITED STATES. THE PRICE CANT BE BEAT ALSO.

Great

I am doing research on my great great cousin, Tommy Brookins and saw this book...He was one of the original Savoy 5....

This book is way too long to give the reader the desire to sit down and tackle it all! Good

information, but just too much of it!

Wow, it is not often I read a book where it turns out even better than I expected. If someone wants to find out about how the famous Harlem Globetrotters were developed this is the book to read. The research by author Ben Green is explicit. I saw the Trotters play many times as a kid and even into adulthood. Once in my home town of Marion, IN I saw a former Indiana Mr. Basketball, Jumping Johnny Wilson from Anderson, IN play for the Trotters. Amazingly in that game he drop kicked the ball into the basket from about 60 feet. He did it again the very next night in Cleveland. Although not mentioned in the book owner Abe Saperstein would not let Wilson play the next game after he missed the kick in Sandusky, OH. This was an example of the iron clad power Saperstein held over the players when racism was so bad in the early years of the Globies. Nevertheless, the book shows how all people associated with the Globetrotters after their start in Chicago in 1927 endured hardships and made the franchise into one of the world's most successful. The team is, after some rough years, still thriving today and is celebrating 90 years of existence. Some of the most famous names in basketball are mentioned in the book. I recommend it to anyone interested in learning about the behind the scenes stories of the fabulously entertaining Harlem Globetrotters. Norman Jones, Ed. D. author of Growing Up in Indiana: The Culture & Hoosier Hysteria Revisited.

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