

# Ty Cobb: Terrible Beauty - The Life and Legacy of a Baseball Legend



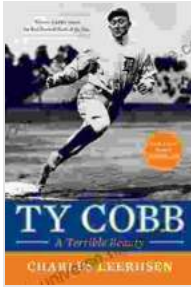
## Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty by Charles Leerhsen

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 21769 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 474 pages



Ty Cobb, the legendary baseball player known as the "Georgia Peach," was a complex and enigmatic figure whose aggressive style and unmatched talent made him one of the most influential figures in the game's history. His life and career were marked by both brilliance and controversy, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to fascinate and inspire fans and historians alike.

## Early Life and Career

Tyrus Raymond Cobb was born on December 18, 1886, in Royston, Georgia. His father, William Herschel Cobb, was a farmer and former Confederate soldier. His mother, Amanda Chitwood Cobb, was a devout Methodist who instilled in Ty a strong work ethic and determination. From a young age, Ty displayed an exceptional talent for baseball, playing with a homemade bat and ball.

In 1904, at the age of 17, Cobb joined the Augusta Tourists, a minor league team in the South Atlantic League. He quickly made a name for himself with his blazing speed, powerful hitting, and aggressive fielding. In 1905, he was signed by the Detroit Tigers, a struggling American League team that would become his home for the next 22 seasons.

## **Rise to Stardom**

Cobb quickly became a star in Detroit, leading the Tigers to their first American League pennant in 1907. He was known for his exceptional batting skills, finishing with a lifetime batting average of .366, the highest in Major League Baseball history. Cobb was also an accomplished base stealer, holding the record for most stolen bases in a career (968) until it was broken in 1974.

Beyond his statistical accomplishments, Cobb was a feared and respected opponent. He was known for his aggressive play and intense competitive spirit, often intimidating opposing players and umpires. His legendary slide into second base, known as "Cobb's Corner," became a symbol of his determination and ruthlessness.

## **Controversial Legacy**

Cobb's aggressive style and fiery temper often led to controversy. He was accused of racism, gambling, and other unsportsmanlike conduct. In 1912, he was suspended for allegedly attacking a fan. Despite his many on-field accomplishments, Cobb's reputation was tarnished by these off-field incidents.

After retiring from baseball in 1928, Cobb became a successful businessman and investor. He remained a controversial figure, however, and his legacy continues to be debated. Some historians view him as one of the greatest baseball players of all time, while others emphasize his flaws and negative impact on the game.

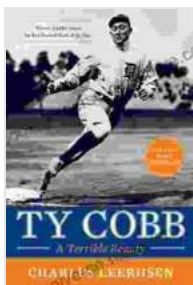
## **Personal Life**

Cobb was married twice, first to Charlotte Augusta Cobb in 1908 and then to Frances Leibold in 1949. He had two sons from his first marriage, Ty Cobb Jr. and Herschel Cobb. Cobb was a complex and private person, known for his intense focus on baseball and his disdain for the media.

## Death and Legacy

Ty Cobb died on July 17, 1961, at the age of 74. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936, and his legacy continues to be debated by historians, fans, and players.

Ty Cobb was a true pioneer of baseball, leaving an indelible mark on the game. His unmatched talent, aggressive style, and controversial legacy have ensured his place as one of the most influential and unforgettable figures in baseball history.



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