



Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race

Julie M. Fenster

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race

Julie M. Fenster

Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race Julie M. Fenster

On the morning of February 12, 1908, six cars from four different countries lined up in the swirling snow of Times Square, surrounded by a frenzied crowd of 250,000. The seventeen men who started the New York to Paris auto race were an international roster of personalities: a charismatic Norwegian outdoorsman, a witty French count, a pair of Italian sophisticates, an aristocratic German army officer, and a cranky mechanic from Buffalo, New York. President Theodore Roosevelt congratulated them by saying, “I like people who do something, not the good safe man who stays at home.” These men were doing something no man had ever done before, and their journey would take them very far from home.

Their course was calculated at more than 21,000 miles, across three continents and six countries. It would cross over mountain ranges—some as high as 10,000 feet—and through Arctic freeze and desert heat, from drifting snow to blowing sand. Bridgeless rivers and seas of mud blocked the way, while wolves, bears, and bandits stalked vast, lonely expanses of the route. And there were no gas stations, no garages, and no replacement parts available. The automobile, after all, had been sold commercially for only fifteen years. Many people along the route had never even seen one.

Among the heroes of the race were two men who ultimately transcended the others in tenacity, skill, and leadership. Ober-lieutenant Hans Koeppen, a rising officer in the Prussian army, led the German team in their canvas-topped 40-horsepower Protos. His amiable personality belied a core of sheer determination, and by the race’s end, he had won the respect of even his toughest critics. His counterpart on the U.S. team was George Schuster, a blue-collar mechanic and son of German immigrants, who led the Americans in their lightweight 60-horsepower Thomas Flyer. A born competitor, Schuster joined the U.S. team as an undistinguished workman, but he would battle Koeppen until the very end. Ultimately the German and the American would be left alone in the race, fighting the elements, exhaustion, and each other until the winning car’s glorious entrance into Paris, on July 30, 1908.

Lincoln’s Birthday, February 12, 1908 . . .

The crowds gathering on Broadway all morning were not out to honor Abe Lincoln, either. They were on the avenue to catch sight of the start of the New York-to-Paris Automobile Race. There would only be one—one race round the world, one start, and one particular way that, for the people who lived through it, the world would never be the same. The automobile was about to take it all on: not just Broadway, but the farthest reaches to which it could lead. On that absurdity, the auto was about to come of age.

“By ten o’clock,” reported the *Tribune*, “Broadway up to the northernmost reaches of Harlem looked as though everybody was expecting the circus to come to town.” The excitement was generated by the potential of the auto to overcome the three challenges most frustrating to the twentieth century: distance, nature, and technology. First, distance: in the form of twenty-two thousand miles of the Northern Hemisphere, from New York west to Paris. Second, nature: in seasons at their most unyielding. And third, the very machinery itself, which would be pressed hard by the race to defeat itself. Barely twenty years old as a contraption and only ten as a practical conveyance, the automobile couldn’t reasonably be expected to be ready to take on the

world. But there were men who were ready and that was what mattered.

—From *Race of the Century*

 [Download Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of th ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race Julie M. Fenster

From reader reviews:

Patsy Hall:

The book Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem with the subject. If you can make looking at a book Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race to become your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like wide open and read a guide Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this guide?

Roman Leonard:

Now a day people who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each details they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Reading a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information mainly this Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race book as this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Linda McGrane:

Reading a book for being new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to examine a book. When you go through a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race will give you a new experience in examining a book.

Minnie Rivera:

Do you like reading a publication? Confuse to looking for your best book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many query for the book? But any people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people likes examining, not only science book but novel and Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race or even others sources were given understanding for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel want to read more and more. Science e-book was created for teacher as well as students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to add their knowledge. In additional case, beside science publication, any other book likes Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908

New York to Paris Auto Race to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like here.

**Download and Read Online Race of the Century: The Heroic True
Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race Julie M. Fenster
#QCX3DVRLJOK**

Read Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race by Julie M. Fenster for online ebook

Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race by Julie M. Fenster Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race by Julie M. Fenster books to read online.

Online Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race by Julie M. Fenster ebook PDF download

Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race by Julie M. Fenster Doc

Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race by Julie M. Fenster Mobipocket

Race of the Century: The Heroic True Story of the 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race by Julie M. Fenster EPub