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For soccer enthusiasts and sports fans in general, an in-depth look at the life of the beautiful game's greatest star, Argentine footballer Lionel Messi.

Whether you call it soccer, football, *fútbol*, or the "beautiful game," it is the most popular sport in the world, and Argentine footballer Lionel Messi stands as one of its finest players—not only of his time, but of all time. Admired around the globe for his athleticism, skill, and fierce competitiveness, Messi has, at the age of 24, already shattered records at one of the most storied clubs in the world, FC Barcelona. Now, in this comprehensive biography, Messi fans can learn more about his life and career. Argentine journalist Leonardo Faccio describes how Messi, as a talented youth player in Buenos Aires, left his home for Spain in search of the medical help his family could not afford to treat his rare hormone deficiency. Small of stature, but possessing tremendous natural gifts, Messi developed into a star at Barcelona's famed Masia soccer school. In this book, Faccio has written not only a biography of an enigmatic celebrity, but a meditation on athletic genius, drawing on interviews with Messi himself, as well as with everyone from his family, teammates, childhood friends—even his favorite butcher. In-depth and intimate, soccer fans who enjoy watching Messi come alive on the field will delight as he comes alive on the page.

Messi: A Biography Details

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Adam Bouazza says

In the story, Messi by Leonardo Faccio, a rising soccer star by the name of Lionel Messi was a skilled and gifted football player from Buenos Aires. He started playing for River late at age 11 but unfortunately was diagnose with a very rare growth hormone deficiency. River Plate liked Messi as a player but could not pay for his hormone deficiency. After moving away from Buenos Aires to Spain. He was looking for medical help in Spain. He was finally signed by Barcelona after they watched him play. They were very impressed and decided to pay all his bills for his deficiency. He was in the clubs youth team. Day after day he improved and finally debuted his career in October of 2004. He was the youngest soccer player ever to score in La Liga which is the Spanish league. Four years later he was nominated for the FIFA Ballon d'Or but unfortunately did not win. Messi kept trying and trying. He was improving very fast according to his coach. At age 22 Messi won his first FIFA Ballon d'Or, but it wasn't the last. Later on, He helped Fc Barcelona obtain their first treble. In Two thousand eleven Messi led Argentina to Three finals in the world cup. Messi received the FIFA Ballon d'Or three times in a row. Everything was going remarkably good for Messi until Septemeber twenty-six Two thousand and fourteen when he got severely injured not allowing him to play for 7 to 8 weeks. This made him lose the FIFA Ballon d'Or. Messi came back and won world records after records and won FIFA Ballon d'Or. Finally, on July 21, 2016, He decided to retire from the Argentinian team. Fans were very frustrated and sad. To this day Messi still plays for Fc Barcelona.

These are five facts that everyone has to know about Messi. He was offered a position in Spains international team but denied because he wanted to play for the country he came from which is Argentina. His father was a steelworker and did not have a lot of money. Today Messi is very rich and makes about \$128,000 per day. However, Messi is a very generous person. He donated over 4.5 million dollars to the UNICEF foundation. Messi also has two sons by the name of Thiago and Mateo. Messi became famous thanks to his soccer talent. From age 3 Messi practiced soccer with his dad and worked hard to arrive where he is today. According to his doctor he never gave up even when the doctor said he could not play. Messi is considered as a hero in Argentina because it is the first time an Argentinian player wins five Ballon dor. Another reason he is a hero is that Messi led Argentina to the 2014 world cup in Brazil. Overall, Messi as a hero around the world for his achievement in soccer and gifted talent.

I honestly enjoyed this biography and would certainly read it again. My favorite part of the biography is when Messi was playing for River Plate and quit because he had to find medical help. This is my favorite part of the biography because it brings on the suspense. On the other side, my least favorite part was when Messi got injured. This part is my least favorite because it is the saddest. I would recommend this book for anyone who loves soccer and football players. This biography is fascinating and shows how much Messi had to go through before becoming a football player. Overall, I enjoyed this biography and would totally read it again.

Spencer Van says

Personally, I found this book to be very good and definitely worth reading. When you imagine world class players while they're not on the pitch, you usually think of energetic people who party every night and are always surrounded by other people. This is not the case with Messi. It was really interesting to see how the world's best player grew up and how his personalities could not differ more on and off the pitch. This was definitely a book worth reading.

Eduardo says

I think it is a nice book that shows how Messis life is not only inside the field but also outside the field. It goes back to when he was a kid back in in Argentina and the problems he went through up to right now being the succesful man he is now.

Matthew says

Okay, I want to be clear on what makes this a four star book for me: any fan of Messi, or soccer, or even sports in general, is going to LOVE the behind-the-scenes look that readers get into this particular player, the training systems involved in recruiting young talent, and the realities of soccer stardom. In that sense the book is 5 stars and worth every penny. And surely, if you're already a fan of Messi then you don't need my review here to convince you to pick this book up?

The book falls down to four stars, however, in the actual writing. This book felt more like a series of disjointed news articles I might find online, not like a fully realized biography that carries us from a start, through a middle, and towards an end. It's a list of interesting "oh wow, I didn't know that!", not a page-turner that has you wondering what and why and how of what's coming. Did this book cover great information? Yes. Did it ponder and explore the personality of the subject person? Yes. Did it feel like a fully realized biography that captured the real story of this one person's life? Meh, not so much.

There is a chance I'm just losing something in translation. After all, the only real knowledge I have of these players is watching the games themselves. I don't see regular headlines of the players off the fields, as you might in other parts of the world. For someone with that starting knowledge of all the headlines and player interactions, maybe this book perfectly fills the niche of what's missing. For me, I started with a pretty blank slate.

Ingmar Heikens says

Gives a really nice inside of the life of a living legend. Whose leadership is by doing the thing he loves the most; soccer. A wonderful written style. Takes you back to his youth and will also let you see how he became who he is today. A good read for people who want to learn from this stunning little man!

Jorge Rodriguez says

I really enjoyed this book and i'm giving it 5 stars. One thing that I love reading about successful people is how they started with nothing. Messi grew up in a poor town with normal people. No one knew he was going to make it that big. Another thing i enjoyed about Messi was that he wasn't like the rest of the kids he played soccer with. He started at age 6 and from there he was an incredible soccer player. He would play kids his age when he was 8 and he was unstoppable. Messi was so good that they had to move him up with trained and older kids. He would still make 3 to 5 goals a game and was one of the shortest. At age 13 he got a shot with Barcelona which is a huge deal. This book made me realize that even if u have some disadvantages, anything is possible if you go all out on what you love. I recommend this book to anyone that wants to look up to any great role model with much ambition.

Wesley Terpstra says

Ever wonder how Lionel Messi became the world's greatest soccer player? "Messi: A Biography" gives you an inside look into the life of Leo Messi, as he faces the struggles of coming from a poor family, along with a growth hormone deficiency, all while trying to make it as a professional. He had to move to a foreign country at a young age which was another obstacle in his rise to fame. However, as he overcame it, his confidence grew as he quickly moved up the ranks all the way to the first team. At age 17, he made his first team debut, the youngest debut in Barcelona History. He would quickly make his mark in the big leagues and go on to smash tons of records. Today, Lionel Messi is no match for anyone, and is without a doubt the world's greatest player.

Leonardo Faccio does an extremely good job getting the reader into Messi's head. It is like we can feel his struggle as he goes through his obstacles in life, and when he is happy, we can feel his happiness too. It is very descriptive and gives good in-match detail about some of his more famous games and goals

I would recommend this book to anyone ages 13 and up. Any sports fan should read this book. Just about everyone knows who Leo Messi is, and I think it would be great for people to know his story, and how he made it into the big league. Overall, the book is very compelling and is a great read.

Francisco Garduno says

Title: Messi: A Biography

Author: Leonardo Faccio

Messi: A biography is an amazing biography of an amazing soccer player dream of playing soccer and how he made his dream come true. This biography is my favorite because the book states how Messi struggled when he was young because of being short and many other things that were going on in his life. If you are a soccer player fan and your favorite soccer player is Messi, then I recommend you to read his biography because you will find out many things about him and the things he has to face to become the best soccer player.

Zach Littman says

I personally chose to read this book due to my love of the sport of soccer and to delve into the life of one of the sports greatest players, Lionel Messi. I expected this book to mostly just detail the trophies that Messi has won and how he came to achieve them, but was surprised to learn about his past and all the struggles he had to endure to get to where he is today. As a child, Messi was growth hormone deficient, meaning he was loads smaller than all of the other kids and was often judged by his height out on the soccer field. I can relate to this exact scenario as I too am growth hormone deficient and am lucky enough to combat the deficiency with drugs. Repeated many times over, Messi was always the shortest guy on the field, however his talent with a soccer ball made him rise up against the rest, he even was playing with kids much older than him and was still the best player. He has learned to cope with his short stature with his quick feet and agility that allows him to slip by defenders with ease. The theme Man vs Man comes into play, as Messi has to put up a fight every minute of every game to help his team win the game, regardless of who he is facing and which obstacles are standing in his way. I would recommend this book to any sports lovers, because Messi is more than just world class dribbler seen in his highlight reel. Lionel Messi is the true example of a person who fought his way up to the top, with all odds against him, to become one of the greatest soccer players of all time.

Tony M. says

This biography was great I really liked it because it was talking about Messi's life and how he became famous. I also enjoyed it because im a big messi fan.

Salim Benssy says

The amazing biography written by Leonardo Faccio on the best player in the world gives the reader an overview of how Messi became the best player in the world. Lionel Andress Messi was born on June 24th, 1987 in Rosario, Argentina. At the age of only 13 years old, young Lionel Messi was moved to Spain after that Fc Barcelona agreed to pay hormone deficiency treatments. Hormone deficiency restricted Messi's growth and could not grow as tall as the kids his age. Messi was an amazing player for his age, so Fc Barcelona offered a chance to Messi to train at La Masia and help his parents pay the medication bills. Messi was an amazing player at the age of 13, he got to the Barcelona Junior team at the age of 16 while that people get there at the age of 18. Messi made several achievements that year, he broke the record of being the first youngest player at Barcelona to score for the first team and also let his national team to the under 20 World Cup. In 2009, Messi led Barcelona to win The UEFA Champions League, The League, and the Spanish Cup. Messi also took home with him his first Ballon d'Or. Messi broke all the records and scored more goals than legends who have played at the club. Today, Messi is the best player in the world, holding five Ballon D'ors, four Champions League, three UEFA best player of Europe, eight leagues, and four Spanish cup winners. Messi was also named a player of the year three times, top scorer fifteen times, one-time Olympic gold medalist and much more wins with the amazing Fc Barcelona team. Finally, one would describe Messi in three words: God of Soccer.

After reading this exciting biography about Lionel Messi, people would like several things about him. The first thing that I love about Messi is that he is a tough guy and never give up his dreams. Messi grew up in a poor family and had a very harsh childhood, he never gave up his dream to be an amazing soccer player and fought his problems to become the best in the world today. Second, Diego Maradona was the person who

inspired Messi. Diego Maradona was an Argentinian legend and just was an amazing player like Messi. Since Lionel's childhood, he always used to watch i-his "inspiration" Diego Maradona on TV and try to do the same as him. The world already knows much about Messi but ere are five facts that everyone should know about Messi: First, at the age of 17, Messi made his league debut and was the third young player to play in Barcelona. Second, in the season 2005-2006, he started getting paid as an official first team member. Third, Messi won an Olympic Gold Medal at Beijing with the Argentine soccer team. Fourth, Messi was received to play in the Spanish national team, that he did not accept. Finally, Japanese jeweler had Messi put his left foot into a cast and create a solid gold replica that is worth about \$5.25 million.

This astonishing biography on Lionel Messi's life would be highly recommended to any person. This book will teach you about how to never give up your dreams and to always run after them just like what Messi did. It would help people be stronger and never give up running after your dreams until one reaches them. The part of the book that was not really fun was when Messi was suffering from hormone deficiency and could not grow at the same size of all his friends. The most exciting part of the book was about Messi today and how he succeeded his goals, broke records and how he is today that best soccer player in the world. Another exciting part was when Messi was the youngest player to ever win the Ballon d'Or. The Ballon D'or is a ceremony that takes part every January and has three nominees and one of them would be elected world's best men player. Finally, the book about Messi's life was an every inspiring book and encouraged me to run after my dreams until I reach them, just like Messi did.

Peter says

Ben eigenlijk vrijwel niets wijzer geworden over Messi. Op de achterflap staat dat de schrijver de voetballer 'drie jaar' volgde, maar dat blijkt te betekenen dat hij hem één keer een kwartier interviewde (toen Messi daar weinig zin in had) en daarnaast bij onder meer een commercial-opname was, een uitreiking van een Ballon d'Or en een rechtbankzitting in de belastingzaak tegen Messi en zijn vader. Faccio sprak wel veel familieleden, maar helaas slechts uiterst oppervlakkig. Door ofwel zijn stijl ofwel de vertaling naar het Nederlands - waarschijnlijk een optelsom van de twee - is het regelmatig onnavolgbaar krom verwoord. Wat moet ik met een zin als deze? "Voor de fans die hem bij de rechtbank opwachtten was hij als een fantastische doelpuntenmaker uit de zwijgende film die hen gelukkig maakte te midden van al die technoherrie." Kan me slecht voorstellen dat zelfs de grootste Messi-fan hier vrolijk van wordt.

Kyle Lehnert says

This book was very fascinating, it told me a lot of facts about Messi that I didn't already know. I also loved this book because it didn't only talk about Messi sports wise, but every where else too. Like how it talks about him in school and being very shy. This is why I liked this book so much.

Frank Estrada says

The 5 foot 7 colossus is currently dominating the field. Breaking records, bringing home trophies, and influencing millions in the process including myself. Lionel Messi's story is a great inspiration and filled with many exiting moments that will surely keep a reader flipping the pages. Throughout the book the reader not only is exposed to key moments that made the player but also real interviews between the author (Leonardo Faccio) and the great Lionel Messi himself.

Lionel Messi faced a major problem with reaching his goal of becoming a professional soccer player. At an early age Messi otherwise known as "La Pulga", small fly, was diagnosed with a growth hormone deficiency. Seen by many as a weakness was later made into a strength by Messi. Not giving up Messi at the age of 13 found himself getting a contract by a professional soccer club called Fc Barcelona. Treating a growth hormone deficiency takes a lot of money which Messi's parents didn't have at the time. Looking past Messi's disability the club fully paid for the treatment and brought him and his family to Barcelona, Spain to begin their new life.

In this book you get background information on the soccer star some may have not ever heard about before. Very detailed and very organized this book clearly tells Messi's story and along with some facts about the player. The only improvement needed for this book is to be longer for Messi's ongoing dominance of the game. This book is a must read for many who are looking for inspiration or just for anybody looking for more information about their idol.

Mohamed Yahia says

In the biography Messi, the author, Leonardo Faccio explains everything about Messi. First, Messi is an Argentinian footballer who plays for FC Barcelona. At a young age, Lionel Messi had a sickness called growth hormone deficiency. This sickness made Messi growth stop, and the medical treatment he needed was too much money and he couldn't afford it. Since Messi was very young he was always good at soccer and a team called, River Plate wanted to put Messi in their club, but they didn't want to pay for the medical treatment. Later, FC Barcelona made an offer to pay for his medical treatment and that he would play with them. Messi accepted and moved to Barcelona with his dad, which was very hard for him. Messi started to play with FC Barcelona, and he was making his first appearances on the soccer pitch in the year 2004/2005. He was the youngest player to ever score a league goal. He got an offer from a Russian team of 20 million euros a year, and he denied. He also received an offer to play in the Premier League, but he still denied. He said, "Barcelona is my life. They have brought me to where I am today. I could not leave, I don't want to leave. I know the Premier League is very good. But I cannot see myself playing in England because my heart is with Barcelona, always." Throughout his career Messi has broken a lot of world records, he won a lot of titles with Argentina and FC Barcelona. He is now considered the best player in the world. Thus, Messi was very sick when he was small, and he was taken in by FC Barcelona, and he is now the best soccer player in the world.

Another name for this book would be The Life Changer. This would be a good name for this book because when Lionel Messi was small he didn't have money to pay the medical treatment and he was very sick. All of a sudden he moved to Barcelona, his medical treatments were paid, and he became the best soccer player in the world. His life changed completely. The author wrote this biography to teach everyone about a very famous soccer player called Lionel Messi. The main purpose of why he wrote this biography is because he wanted to teach people to never give up because Messi was very sick and he kept playing soccer until he went to FC Barcelona and became who he is today. This is an acrostic poem for the name MESSI.

M= Managed to become the best soccer player

E=Earned a lot of world records

S=Soccer

S=Skillful

I=Incredible soccer player

In conclusion, another name for this book would be The Life Changer, and the author wrote this book to teach people not to give up.

The least favorite part of this book was when the author explained how Messi was very sick and how he couldn't afford. This was a very sad part and it made the reader feel sorry for him because the reader still didn't know the outcome. The best part about this book was learning that Messi wasn't sick anymore and learning about all his titles and records. This was the best part because the reader was relieved that Messi was fine and it was also the best part because the reader knew how sick Messi was, and after learning about all his awards, the reader feels happy. I would recommend this book to everyone because it teaches people about how a young, sick boy became the best player in the world. It is not very hard to read and it is brief. The information is simple and also interesting. Therefore, I recommend this book to everyone and this book has its ups and downs.
