



Lovelock

James McNeish

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A classic fictionalised biography of the enigmatic Olympic athlete Jack Lovelock. Jack Lovelock has been called the first modern athlete. He became famous internationally when he broke the world record to take the gold medal in the 1500 metres event at the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936. His unexpected victory against 'the greatest field of milers ever assembled' has all the hallmarks of a great discovery. A medical student, he treated his body as a human laboratory. Yet a mystery remains. In 1949 a few days before his 40th birthday, Jack Lovelock was killed when he fell beneath a train in New York. The enigma of his death becomes the key to McNeish's quest for the 'real' Lovelock - a man who in the author's words 'covered his traces as adroitly as he ran'. *Lovelock*, based on wide research but written as a fictional diary, was nominated for the 1986 Booker Prize. This edition includes the 'Berlin Diary', McNeish's journal written in Germany while researching the novel and an afterword, which contains a sobering commentary on Lovelock's death.

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