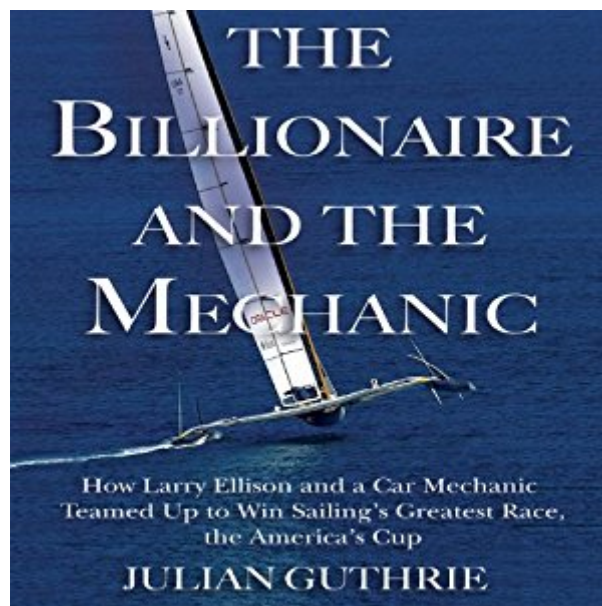


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# **The Billionaire And The Mechanic: How Larry Ellison And A Car Mechanic Teamed Up To Win Sailing's Greatest Race, The America's Cup**



## Synopsis

The America's Cup, first awarded in 1851, is the oldest trophy in international sports, and one of the most hotly contested. In 2000, Larry Ellison, co-founder and billionaire CEO of Oracle Corporation, decided to run for the coveted prize and found an unlikely partner in Norbert Bajurin, a car radiator mechanic who had recently been named Commodore of the blue collar Golden Gate Yacht Club. Julian Guthrie's *The Billionaire and the Mechanic* tells the incredible story of the partnership between Larry and Norbert, their unsuccessful runs for the Cup in 2003 and 2007, and their victory in 2010. With unparalleled access to Ellison and his team, Guthrie takes readers inside the design and building process of these astonishing boats, and the management of the passionate athletes who race them. She traces the bitter rivalries between Oracle and their competitors, including Swiss billionaire Ernesto Bertarelli's Team Alinghi, and throws listeners into exhilarating races from Australia and New Zealand to Valencia, Spain. With new television coverage and huge media, the America's Cup is poised to be bigger than ever, and *The Billionaire and the Mechanic* is a must-listen for anyone interested in the race or this remarkable story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While I have never followed the sport of racing yachts, I have always loved the science and technology involved in the creation of these amazing machines. I picked up this book for technical information and to be wowed by the details of making the world's fastest non-motorized boats, but instead I found a beautiful story of the inner workings of an America's Cup campaign. There was quite a bit of detail and it was obvious that much research went into the making of this not-so-short

book. The book started out by alternating the stories of Norbert (the mechanic) and Larry Ellison (the billionaire). This system kept the story moving while the background information was laid out. The stories throughout were compelling and relevant, but the initial story of the Sidney-Hobart Race is what drew me in and forced me to read the book despite it not being what I expected. The author does a good job at explaining the intricacies and difficulties of what is happening so that the reader can truly appreciate the magnitude of the project. I wholeheartedly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in yachting, big races, or monumental undertakings.

While this book provides plenty of insight into America's Cup racing, the trade-off is just not worth the value. Too much of Ellison's hand is in this book and it reads like a one-sided cell phone conversation and then the final few chapters read like something out of People magazine. There is also a hidden mean spirit here as some very respected professional sailors get seriously dissed in this book, unnecessarily so, most likely impacting their careers. I would highly recommend skipping this book.

Indulgent. Hyperbole in excess. Over the top. The Billionaire and the Mechanic are all these things, and yet I loved it. Do I believe Ellison took the reins in the Hobart race to save Sayonara at a critical point? Nope. But do I think he has sailed in the arena, paid his money and taken his chances? How many of us would come back after 2 losses in the Cup to finally win, then spend another fortune to make sailing more accessible to the sporting public with the spectacle of AC72s and unprecedented TV and multimedia coverage? This book gives, in albeit a slanted view, an inside perspective on it all. Flawed, but if you're a Cup junkie you need to have this on your bookshelf. And if you're a hater, hide it in your Kindle... but still get it!

Enjoyable account of a fascinating chapter in America's Cup history. Julian Guthrie stretches a bit to develop this "prince and pauper" angle and ultimately the book becomes the story of Larry Ellison's Cup campaigns. If he had compressed the narrative of the SF races and wrapped up the book earlier, I would have liked it more. The tack-by-tack, jibe-by-jibe play-by-play is tiresome and unnecessary, but you could always skip over that part and get to the end.

OK, disclosure: I am a member of the St Francis Yacht Club. Then the book: well written, entertaining. I learned more from the book than from my club... Larry is a mesmerizing figure, maybe not the nicest man on earth, some will say an asshole. But the man is a powerful, hard charging

entrepreneur. And don't believe it is easy, it is very hard, he could have failed hundreds of times. But he did not and never gave up. We raced against him when he had Sayonara. I have a lot of respect for Larry.

An unparalleled book about the America's Cup! I couldn't put it down. Extremely detailed regarding the intricacies of sailing in the pre races and the Cup itself! This book is not for people who have never sailed or raced the big boats! I loved it!!

say what you want about Larry, but he has a pair. The story is no less amazing even when you know the outcome. in the final section on the 2013 Cup, I rewatched every race then read the corresponding coverage in the book. Great fun.

One of the best books I have ever read!! This true story provides an exciting insight into the contrast of man and nature, man against man and the psychological threads that bind them. The writing is magnificent in its detail and provides the reader with the excitement of the 'race'. Many thanks to Larry Ellison and Norbert--truly magnificent men of our time.

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