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The Three-Year Swim Club: The Untold Story of Maui's Sugar Ditch Kids and Their

By Checkoway, Julie.

Grand Central. 1 Paperback(s), 2016. soft. Book Condition: New. In 1937, a schoolteacher on Maui challenged a bunch of sugar plantation kids to swim against the current of their circumstance and become Olympic athletes for the 1940 games. Malnourished and barefoot, living in virtual slavery, these Japanese American children had to train in the irrigation ditches that snaked through the sugarcane fields, and their teacher Soichi Sakamoto could barely swim. Yet in their first year they outraced Olympians; in their second, they became international champions and made headlines from Los Angeles to Nazi Berlin; and in their third, they were named the greatest swimmers in the world. They then faced their final hurdle the cancellation of the games and the dawning of World War II but their chance to shine had not passed. Julie Checkoway's gripping account is "an inspiring tale of true grit and determination" (Booklist). "Checkoway has created a sports history that is singular in its own right, and a fitting testament to the over two hundred youths who swam for many reasons toward one goal: 'Olympics First! Olympics Always'." Publishers Weekly (starred review) "This captivating nonfiction, featuring engaging individuals and portraying a tumultuous time in history, chronicles Hawaii's second golden age of...



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