

CARNIVAL KING

The Music Man of Rio

Sean Taylor

Illustrated by Emma Shaw Smith



© 2004 **Pacific Learning**

© 2003 Written by **Sean Taylor**

Illustrated by **Emma Shaw Smith c/o Sylvie Poggio Artist Agents**

Photography: Cover photo by Doug Armand/Stone/Getty Images; p. 4 Linographic; pp. 4–5 Corel; p. 5 Morton Beebe, S.F./Corbis UK Ltd.; p. 7 Centro Cultural Cartola; pp. 18–19 Stephanie Maze/Corbis UK Ltd.; pp. 30–31 Morton Beebe, S.F./Corbis UK Ltd.; p. 35 Corbis UK Ltd.; pp. 56–57 Stephanie Maze/Corbis UK Ltd.; p. 73 Centro Cultural Cartola; p. 75 Centro Cultural Cartola; p. 76 Bettmann/Corbis UK Ltd.; pp. 76–77 Corel; pp. 78–79 Corel; p. 79 Brazil Photo Bank U.S. edit by **Alison Auch**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

This Americanized Edition of *Carnival King*, originally published in England in 2003, is published by arrangement with Oxford University Press.

08 07

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Published by

Pacific Learning

P.O. Box 2723

Huntington Beach, CA 92647-0723

www.pacificlearning.com

ISBN: 978-1-59055-454-8

PL-7617

Printed in China through Colorcraft Ltd., Hong Kong

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	4
Chapter 1 When I Was Your Age...	6
Chapter 2 Carnival	14
Chapter 3 You Should Have Been Here	22
Chapter 4 Please, Dad	27
Chapter 5 Steps and Alleys	34
Chapter 6 Work	41
Chapter 7 Auntie Fé's Place	48
Chapter 8 You're Welcome	54
Chapter 9 Batuque	63
Chapter 10 The Kind of Work I Like	69
Story Background	76
Index	80
Glossary	80

Introduction

I am English, but my wife is from South America. I am writing this in our house in Brazil, where I am fortunate enough to spend a great deal of time.

Brazil has its share of problems. Still, every country has its problems, and Brazil is a magical, exciting place to live.

I was talking to a taxicab driver about what makes Brazil special. He said, “Well, when Brazilians are happy, it puts water in your eyes! Our happiness beats right from deep in the heart!”

This book tells the story of one of Brazil’s most popular heroes. He was born on October 11, 1908, and his name was Angenor de Oliveira. Later on, he was nicknamed “Cartola,” which translates as Top Hat!





*One of the many
shantytowns that Brazilians
call "favelas," overlooking
Rio de Janeiro*

I will not relate much more of his story now. You can read the rest of the book to find out about Cartola's life. I will say that life was a bumpy ride for him. Even so, he managed to inspire millions of people and make some happiness beat in their hearts. He died more than twenty years ago, but his name lives on.

As you will see from the Story Background, I did a lot of research into Cartola's life before writing this book. It is not a biography, though. It is an imaginative piece of writing. I have tried to put myself into Cartola's shoes and tell the story of a few months of his life when he was young.

I hope it comes close to the story that he might have told...

CHAPTER

1

When I Was Your Age...

My friend, when life is good, you think it will be good forever. I recall sitting on the steps of our house one afternoon when I was eleven years old. It was back in 1919. I could hear Mom inside singing to my baby sister. The sun was glinting off the rooftops of Rio de Janeiro, and it seemed as if the whole world were smiling. Little did I know that everything in my life was going to go terribly wrong by the end of the day.

I'll tell you what happened. First, though, see if you can picture me sitting there, basking in the warmth of a Brazilian afternoon. I was wearing shiny two-tone shoes, a linen suit, a checked shirt, a dark tie with white dots, and a brand-new hat.