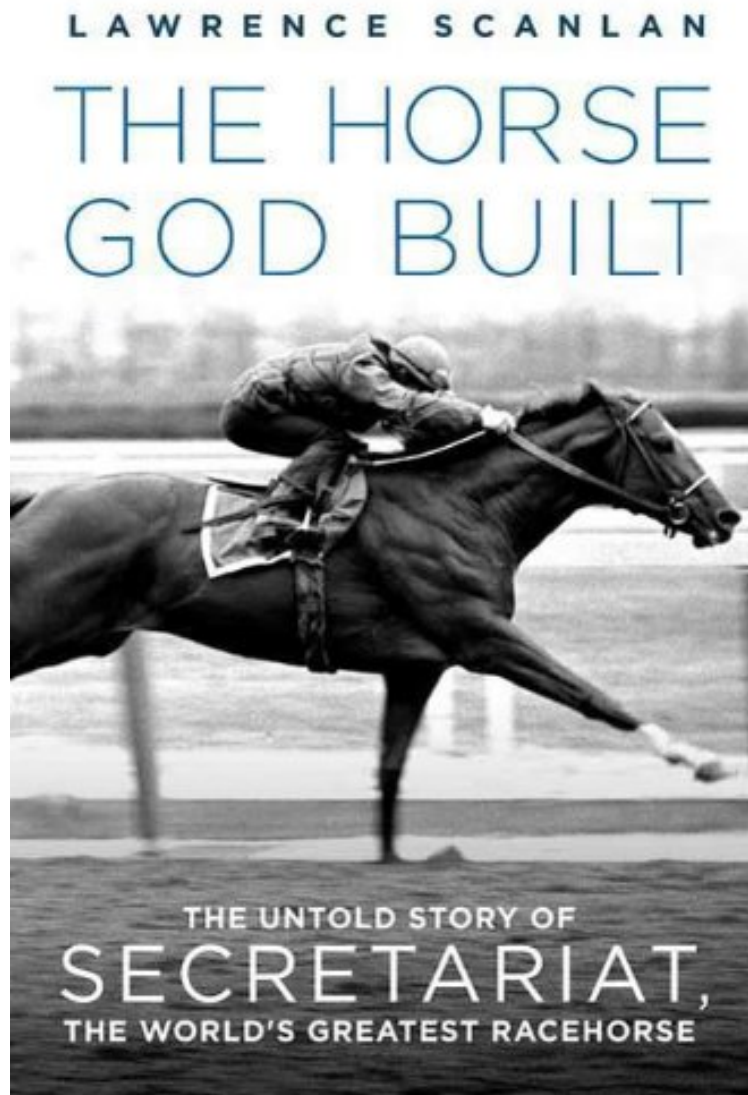


The Horse God Built: The Untold Story of Secretariat, the World's Greatest Racehorse

Von Lawrence Scanlan

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Von Lawrence Scanlan : The Horse God Built: The Untold Story of Secretariat, the World's Greatest Racehorse before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Horse God Built: The Untold Story of Secretariat, the World's Greatest Racehorse:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein absolut ehrliches BuchVon Betty J.V.Das Buch ist fr alle, die einfach nicht genug von Secretariat bekommen knnen.

Es verrt so viele erwhnenswerte Details aus dem Leben des Pferdes, die nur diejenigen wissen konnten, die ihm so nahe standen, wie, z.B. Eddie Sweat. Es ist aktuell, poetisch und dennoch modern sowie in hoher Qualitt geschrieben. Ein anspruchsvolles Buch, das angenehm unkompliziert zu lesen ist und das super recherchiert wurde. Scanlan arbeitet vor allem mit Zitaten von denen, die Secretariat und Eddie Sweat kannten und lsst viele zu Wort kommen, die zuvor nicht gefragt worden waren. Er bercksichtigt nicht nur die, die am Erfolg des Pferdes direkt beteiligt waren, sondern auch die, die groe Fans sind und sein Andenken bis heute pflegen. Es ist ein ehrliches Buch, obwohl der Autor ein groer Fan von Secretariat zu sein scheint. Angenehmerweise ist es keines von den bertrieben heroischen Bchern, in denen jeder, der gefragt wird, sagt, dass er schon immer gewusst hat (bevor es alle anderen wussten), wie gut dieses Pferd einmal sein wrde. Die Hommage an den Hengst und seinen Pfleger geht viel weiter als das. Auch, wenn man sich gelegentlich fhlt, als htte der Autor ein bisschen den Faden verloren, erweitern diese Passagen das Werk angenehm und ziehen es nicht unnig in die Lnge. Das Buch ist eine Reise durch die Orte und Herzen derer, die Secretariat und Eddie niemals vergessen werden. Auerdem erinnert es uns (manchmal extrem dramatisch) daran, dass es neben solchen Ausnahmegaloppfern und ihrem Ruhm auch immer die andere Seite der Medaille gibt.

Kurzbeschreibung He was the perfect horse, it was said, "the horse God built." Most of us know the legend of Secretariat, the tall, handsome chestnut racehorse whose string of honors runs long and rich: the only two-year-old ever to win Horse of the Year, in 1972; winner in 1973 of the Triple Crown, his times in all three races still unsurpassed; featured on the cover of Time, Newsweek, and Sports Illustrated; the only horse listed on ESPN's top fifty athletes of the twentieth century (ahead of Mickey Mantle). His final race at Toronto's Woodbine Racetrack is a touchstone memory for horse lovers everywhere. Yet while Secretariat will be remembered forever, one man, Eddie "Shorty" Sweat, who was pivotal to the great horse's success, has been all but forgotten---until now. In *The Horse God Built*, bestselling equestrian writer Lawrence Scanlan has written a tribute to an exceptional man that is also a backroads journey to a corner of the racing world rarely visited. As a young black man growing up in South Carolina, Eddie Sweat struggled at several occupations before settling on the job he was born for---groom to North America's finest racehorses. As Secretariat's groom, loyal friend, and protector, Eddie understood the horse far better than anyone else. A wildly generous man who could read a horse with his eyes, he shared in little of the financial success or glamour of Secretariat's wins on the track, but won the heart of Big Red with his soft words and relentless devotion. In Scanlan's rich narrative, we get a groom's-eye view of the racing world and the vantage of a man who spent every possible moment with the horse he loved, yet who often basked in the horse's glory from the sidelines. More than anything else, *The Horse God Built* is a moving portrait of the powerful bond between human and horse. From Publishers Weekly In this rambling tale, author Scanlan (*The Man Who Listens to Horses*) declares his intention to explore the relationship between Triple Crown winner Secretariat and his long-time groom, Eddie Sweat. For Scanlan, the African-American Sweat is a symbol of the exploited, underappreciated workers who make the sport of kings run but receive a pittance of the winnings and even less recognition. Scanlan's mission is a noble one, but although he's right there in the subtitle, the groom is strangely absent from the text, and the quest becomes a McGuffin that allows the writer to travel to racetracks around the country. The journey is not without its pleasures, however. Scanlan has written over a dozen books on horses, and this volume bulges with insight into and sensitivity toward the world of Thoroughbred horse racing. He offers hundreds of racing anecdotes and endless minutiae about Secretariat's career. More interestingly, he introduces readers to the marginal figures: grooms, hot-walkers, exercise riders, smalltime trainers, breeders and owners whose love for horses and hope for a lucky break outweigh their desire to make a decent living. Sadly, he also explains that all too many broken-down Thoroughbreds end their careers in the abattoir. In this backstretch meditation, Scanlan's scope is encyclopedic, but his narrative never finally coheres. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist One might question whether another account of Secretariat's life is really necessary. Bill Nack's marvelous *Big Red of Meadow Stable* (1975) still stands as the definitive biography of the 1973 Triple Crown winner's racing career, and Raymond Woolfe's *Secretariat* (2001) took us through the great horse's death in 1989. Scanlan takes a different approach, however, focusing largely on the horse's bond with his unsung groom, Eddie Sweat, and the roll that Sweat played in Secretariat's unprecedented success and popularity. Scanlan makes a convincing case that Sweat was instrumental in keeping his horse healthy and happy, a necessary precondition for the success of any equine athlete. Extrapolating from the relationship between Secretariat and Sweat, Scanlan argues, again convincingly, that grooms are the largely unappreciated and universally underpaid bedrock upon which the entire edifice of Thoroughbred racing is built. His point is driven home by the poignant circumstances of Eddie Sweat's death in 1998. While Secretariat's owner and trainer gained both fame and wealth through their association with the horse, the groom died penniless and---until now---unknown to all but a few racing insiders. Dennis Dodge Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved