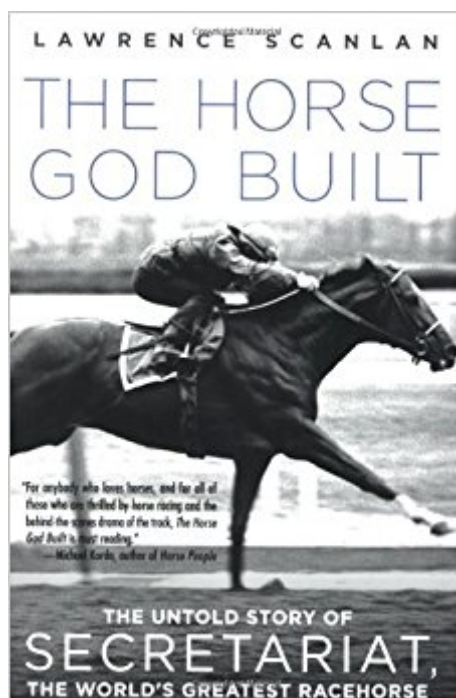




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The Horse God Built: The Untold Story Of Secretariat, The World's Greatest Racehorse



Synopsis

"For anybody who loves horses, and for all of those who are thrilled by horse racing and the behind-the-scenes drama of the track, *The Horse That God Built* is must reading."--Michael Korda, author of *Horse People* 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. Praise for *The Horse God Built*: "Scanlan's scope is encyclopedicâ |" --*Publishers Weekly* "The author's tribute is heartfelt..."--*Kirkus* "...detailed in all its equine awesomeness."--*Maxim* "...will satisfy those who can't get enough of Secretariat."--*The New York Times* "â |an informative read that hardboots and novices alike can enjoy." --*The Lexington Herald Leader (Kentucky)* "Eddie Sweat's story represents the last great untold chapter in the Secretariat saga. Larry Scanlan has honoured both groom and horse by giving it to us at last."--John Jeremiah Sullivan, author of *Blood Horses: Notes of a Sportswriter's Son* "This well-researched book is a must for readers who are fans of the horse, but if you just want a good read, you're going to love this animal/human interest story."--Monty Roberts, author of *The Man Who Listens to Horses*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mr. Scanlan, the winner of numerous magazine writing awards, has written another great magazine article. Unfortunately, Mr. Scanlan has written a book instead that does not support his story line past twenty pages. The thrust of the story is that Eddie Sweat, Secretariat's groom, was a super guy who did a fine job, but got left out of the shuffle of recognition of all those who made Secretariat great. Perhaps all of that is true. It is great that Mr. Sweat is getting some focus now. The book just does not have all that much to say past making the acknowledgement of Mr. Sweat's place in the historic picture. Some of the principles involved in the story Mr. Scanlan writes (my great privilege to know them) have told me that there are many errors of fact. For what I know first hand, Mr. Scanlan never says anything absolutely wrong, and certainly not with malice, but he is careless and he does fall back on others to suggest interpretations that do not reflect reality. For example, Scanlan, again not directly, bemoans the preservation of Secretariat's birthplace, Meadow Farm, as the new home of the State Fair of Virginia. This shallow conclusion is made from the car window conversation he had with site scavengers. So much is incorrect with this brief passage that it would take too long to detail, but the main point Scanlan misses is that the Meadow would have been turned into 10 acre "farmettes" had the Fair and Caroline County not worked together to keep the Meadow intact. A "farmette" is hardly the fitting end for Secretariat's birthplace. Now the Meadow will house an equestrian museum that will honor Secretariat while the site will once again become a center of Virginia equestrian events. One phone call would have put this story right.

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