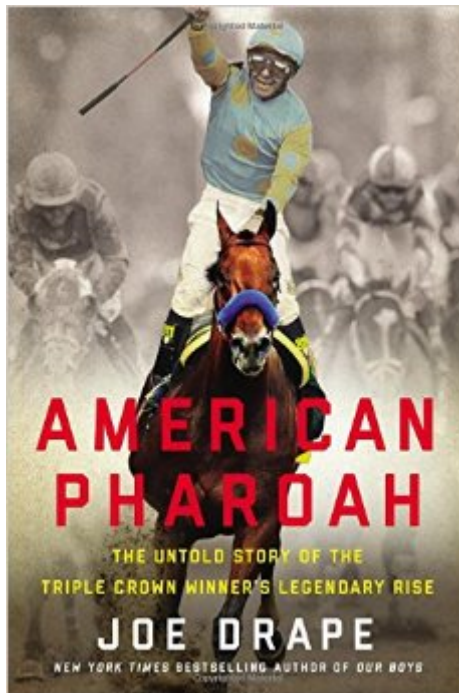


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American Pharoah: The Untold Story Of The Triple Crown Winner's Legendary Rise



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLERHistory was made at the 2015 Belmont Stakes when American Pharoah won the Triple Crown, the first since Affirmed in 1978. As magnificent as the champion is, the team behind him has been all too human while on the road to immortality. Written by an award-winning New York Times sportswriter, American Pharoah is the definitive account not only of how the ethereal colt won the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes, but how he changed lives. Through extensive interviews, Drape explores the making of an exceptional racehorse, chronicling key events en route to history. Covering everything from the flamboyant owner's successful track record, the jockey's earlier heartbreaking losses, and the Hall of Fame trainer's intensity, Drape paints a stirring portrait of a horse for the ages and the people around him.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When we watched Secretariat hit the wire 31 lengths ahead of Twice a Prince in 1973, crushing the Belmont stakes record by two seconds and change, many of us knew that we would not see his like again. We were privileged to see two more Thoroughbreds win the Triple Crown in that same decade of the '70s--Seattle Slew and Affirmed--but then the long 37-year drought began. Had the American Thoroughbred become too fragile to withstand the five-week grind that included the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, and the mile-and-a-half long Belmont Stakes? Certainly California Chrome's outspoken owner, Steve Coburn thought so, when his own horse staggered home fourth down Big Sandy's long and unforgiving stretch. "I'll never see, and I'm 61 years old, another Triple Crown winner in my lifetime because of the way they do this," said Coburn. "It's not fair to these

horses that have been in the game since day one."The very next year, American Pharoah turned three and proved Coburn to be a false prophet. Reading Joe Drape's "American Pharoah" is the next best thing to watching the bay horse with the chewed-up tail run. This book reflects both the brilliance and the dark side of the Thoroughbred and its human interface, and American Pharoah was surrounded by some pretty interesting humans. Joe Drape dishes out the good, the bad, and the ugly, most especially concerning his mercurial owner, Ahmed Zayat and his trainer, Bob Baffert. His jockey, Victor Espinoza has one of the more heart-warming biographies in this book. There are signs that this book was hurried into print --a few misspellings (it's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe) and an over-reliance on religious metaphors.

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