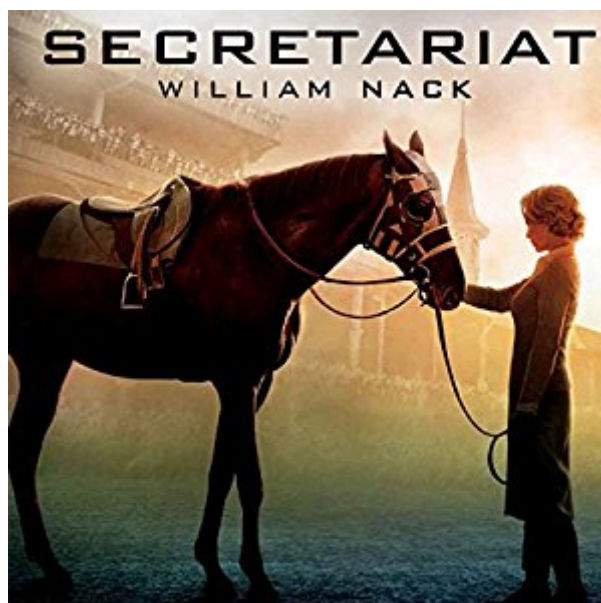


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# Secretariat



## Synopsis

In 1973, Secretariat, the greatest champion in horse-racing history, won the Triple Crown. The only horse to ever grace the covers of Time, Newsweek, and Sports Illustrated in the same week, he also still holds the record for the fastest times in both the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. He was also the only non-human chosen as one of ESPN's "50 Greatest Athletes of the Century". The tale of "Big Red" is an enduring and inspiring classic, more than 30 years after its initial publication.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Growing up Derby Day ranked right up there with Christmas and my birthday. No, I was not a member of a Bluegrass equine dynasty. I was a Midwestern horse crazed farmkid who memorized thoroughbred bloodlines and racing stats. I dreamed of watching the creation of a War Admiral, Count Fleet or Citation. Many tried and failed. Then a chestnut colt sired by Bold Ruler and trained by the skilled hand of Lucien Lauren granted my wish. In 1973 Secretariat captured our nation's imagination, no longer did Cronkite, Huntley and Brinkley report just on Nixon's Watergate shame and the body count in Nam. We watched him shatter course records as all the racing analysts commented on what heart he possessed. Secretariat captured my heart on Derby Day and nearly 40 years later still has it. One of my few lifetime regrets is that I never got to see him personally, whether racing or later in retirement. In this book you can feel Mr. Nack's genuine love for racing and most especially spending time with Big Red. My compliments with the updating of his original book on which this one is based. The writing waxes just the right amount nostalgia and sentiment for me

while being factual. Mr. Nack's eloquent obituary/tribute to Secretariat in Sports Illustrated is included in this book. If you are not moved to tears when you read it then you have never really loved an animal, especially this one. There will be a movie released in October based on this book. Mr. Nack is a consultant. I sincerely hope his affection for Secretariat and Thoroughbred racing transcends to the Big Screen. Secretariat was the rarest of his species, a Triple Crown Winner. A legend with heart. Enjoy the read! Enjoy the movie!

. This book is an immense effort, with endless thoroughbred racing facts, lore and insider views by the author. It is best for someone who is really into Secretariat and wants to know all about this incredible horse. I got hooked when The Wall Street Journal ran a side by side video of the Belmont Stakes race of this year's winner, American Pharoah and Secretariat's run in 1973. Wow, blew me away in tears. I knew I had witnessed excellence, perhaps even thoroughbred perfection, and so have thought countless others. What a horse, that Secretariat was! I like horses, but do not gamble. My main horse activity the last few years is to visit Gulfstream Park in Florida where admission and parking are free, and the paddock up close. What beautiful animals! So when Pharoah won the Triple Crown this year, I was animated to learn more. I bought Raymond Woolfe's Secretariat book and enjoyed it greatly. A very good effort and great pictures. After Nack's book, I found Woolfe's effort leaving me wanting more. That is where Nack's book excels. It is more, wonderfully more.. I suspect that many not as interested in detail as I am and the substantial history in Nack's book might well find it too exhaustive. But,..if you like detail, spun by a very gifted, experienced writer and thoroughbred insider, you will love this book! .

It took me a while to finally pick this book up to read it. As I have grown up with the "story" of Secretariat, I thought this might be a basic re-hash of all the things I already knew. I also had seen the movie which is sort of ass backwards to what I normally like to do. BUT let me tell you friends.... this was no re-hash. This was LIVING with the family, with the whole world of racing and sleeping on the shed row with the horses. I have never had such a "you are there" feeling in a book before. Bill Nack is a storyteller extraordinary! ( Is there such a word?) Even knowing all the races that Secretariat won and the times and lengths he won them by, I got really excited to read each race description. Its like you are right there with horse and jockey. You also are able to soak up the "shed row" experience. Such as the real workings of a race stable in its day to day reality. It was awesome. I loved it. As a kid I used to work race horses for my neighbor and have spent time in many a shed row myself. It brought it back to the point I could almost smell the bran mash cooking.

Nack did an incredible job with this book. Its so much MORE than the movie would have the time ever to be. It is the most amazing story about, I think, the most perfect racehorse ever to put hoof to track.

I chose to read this book after this year's (2013) Kentucky Derby when I was telling my son about Secretariat. Although I like horses, I was never particularly intrigued by them. But I remember as an 11-year-old visiting my cousins' house watching Secretariat win the Belmont on my uncle's brand new color tv! I'll never forget it! I couldn't get this book from the library so i went on and bought it and I am so glad I did. It is so beautifully written. There was so much emotion conveyed on the pages that I wasn't surprised when at the end of the book it was revealed that the author spent many hours with Secretariat and his entourage in the months leading up to his Triple Crown achievement. The descriptions of the races were so sensational, I actually felt my heart racing while reading them. I cried so many times while reading this book, that I ended up keeping a box of tissues by my side every time I picked the book up! Paradoxically, it is also very instructive of horse breeding and racing. The sport involves so much work, so much faith and so much heart. I developed such a deep respect for all those involved that I'll never look upon horse racing the same way again. When I realized this book was originally published in 1975 I was concerned that it would end abruptly. But I was much appreciative that this updated version includes Secretariat's stud life and, also, his heartbreaking and untimely death. A wonderful book that I am glad I own, this one has vaulted over several in my collection as one of the best I've ever read.

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