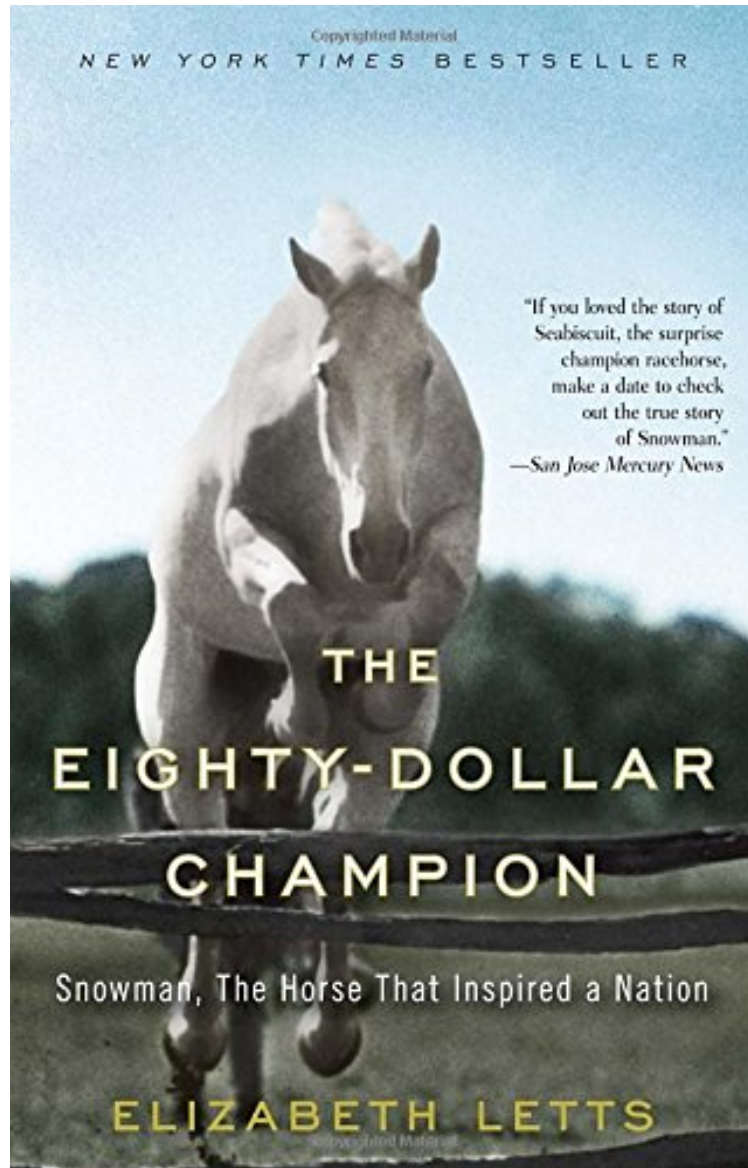


[Library ebook] The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, The Horse That Inspired a Nation

The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, The Horse That Inspired a Nation

Elizabeth Letts

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Elizabeth Letts : **The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, The Horse That Inspired a Nation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, The Horse That Inspired a Nation:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Eighty-Dollar ChampionBy Kindle CustomerWhat an inspiring story of courage, faith, love, and dedication! A wonderful glimpse into the life of an immigrant, his dedication and determination to build a new life in a new country, and the love and companionship between a man, his horse, his family, and a national inspiration!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. THE BEST PART IS THAT THIS IS A TRUE STORYBy Donna GriderOUTSTANDING!!! THE BEST PART IS THAT THIS IS A TRUE STORY. STUNNINGLY WRITTEN. UPLIFTING, HEARTWARMING, EMOTIONALLY MOVING. I GOT A LITTLE BOGGED DOWN IN SOME OF THE "DETAILS" AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BOOK, BUT THEY TRULY SAVE YOU THE STAGING FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW TRULY UNBELIEVABLE AND WONDERFUL SNOWMAN'S STORY IS. IF A PLOW HORSE CAN BE BORN WITH A HEART WITH WINGS, THINK OF WHAT WE COULD DO.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Snowman; the Journey From Plowhorse to Madison Square Garden and Showjumping Championship FameBy PennyThe right horseman, the right horse, and the karma for them to meet at the right time. This is a fun read. One of the most thought provoking thoughts in the book comes when the author points out that if you were to see a couple of really talented show jumping horses turned out with some ordinary mounts, it's not possible to tell which horses are the talented jumpers or the usual hacks just by looking at them. Actually, this champion had marks on his shoulders and neck from the heavy collar used while pulling a plow.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Harry de Leyer first saw the horse he would name Snowman on a truck bound for the slaughterhouse. The recent Dutch immigrant recognized the spark in the eye of the beaten-up nag and bought him for eighty dollars. On Harry's modest farm on Long Island, he ultimately taught Snowman how to fly. Here is the dramatic and inspiring rise to stardom of an unlikely duo. One show at a time, against extraordinary odds and some of the most expensive thoroughbreds alive, the pair climbed to the very top of the sport of show jumping. Their story captured the heart of Cold War-era America—a story of unstoppable hope, inconceivable dreams, and the chance to have it all. They were the longest of all longshots and their win was the stuff of legend.

.com A Letter from Author Elizabeth Letts A writer is always on the lookout for a good story, but the first time I saw a striking old photograph, I didn't realize that I had stumbled across a tale so extraordinary that it had the power to change lives. The old black and white photo showed a horse and rider team in the midst of a crazy feat—jumping right over the back of another horse. What stopped me in my tracks was the expression on the jumping horse's face. Even in the vintage picture I could see that the horse had absolute trust in the man who was asking him to make such a tricky leap. I wondered why. Unable to forget the photograph, armed only with the rider's name, I tracked down an address, not sure if I would find him there, or even if he was still alive. Just a few days after I mailed him a letter, my telephone rang and a voice on the other end said, Hallo, this is Harry de Leyer. The man in the photograph, now in his eighties, was on the phone. The first time we spoke, Harry told me a story that gave me butterflies in my stomach and made my palms sweat—that's how badly I wanted to write about what he'd said to me and share it with the world. Walter Farley, author of *The Black Stallion*, was once asked why horse stories were so popular. His answer was this: When the books have been read and reread, it boils down to the horse, his human companion, and what goes on between them. The story of Harry and Snowman, is at its essence, a love story. A man, a horse, and a lucky encounter on a bleak winter day that led to a second chance for both of them. Together, they shared a dream so big that only their combined courage and heart could get them to their destination. That moment, when the pair of them stood under the spotlights of Madison Square Garden and listened to the thunder of the crowd, was simply unforgettable—the kind of triumph that ripples forward through time. I heard it coming across a crackling phone line, the first time Harry de Leyer told me about Snowman. Read the book, and I'm sure you will hear it too. [A] classic American dream story, with a down-on-its-luck horse galloping in for good measure.USA Today This is a wonderful book—joyous, heartfelt, and an eloquent reminder that hope can be found in the unlikeliest of places. Most of all, it's a moving testament to the incredible things that can grow from the bond between animals and humans.Gwen Cooper, author of *Homer's Odyssey* [Elizabeth Letts] details the intricacies of the show world beautifully, [but it's] the relationship between the people in [Harry's] life and this remarkable, humble horse that will captivate the reader.The Star-Ledger The story is thrilling. . . . Letts's taut, detailed writing vividly recounts the excitement of the shows; the heights these underdogs climbed; the world of the Eisenhower fifties; and what Snowman and Harry meant to the everyday people they inspired.Shelf Awareness If the true stories of horses Secretariat or Seabiscuit kept you spellbound, then consider leaving the racetrack setting to learn about the equestrian world's shock in 1958 when an eighty-dollar plow horse arrived to compete in its top show.Fayetteville Observer Written in evocative, skilled prose that rings true to the tenor of postwar America . . . Letts deftly calibrates the emotion and suspense that are an indelible part of this tale.BookPageAbout the AuthorElizabeth Letts is the award-winning author of two novels, *Quality of Care* and *Family Planning*, and one children's book, *The Butter Man*. *Quality of Care* was a Literary Guild, Doubleday Book Club, and Books-A-Million Book Club selection. An equestrian from childhood, Letts represented California as a junior equestrian, and was runner-up in the California Horse and Rider of the Year competition. She currently lives with her husband and four

children in Baltimore, Maryland.