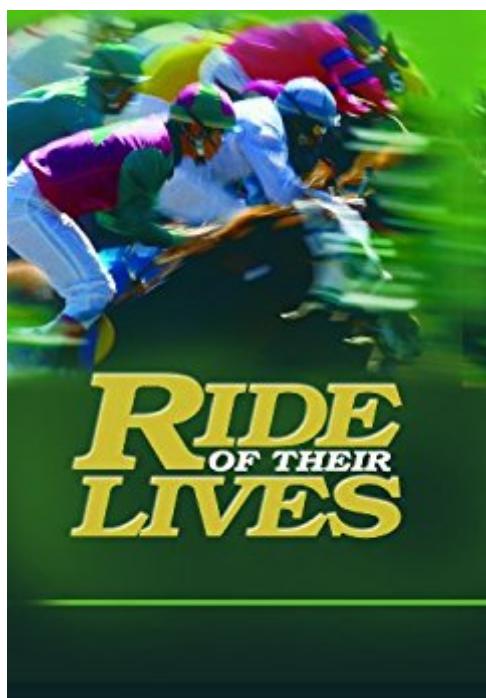


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Ride Of Their Lives: The Triumphs And Turmoil Of Today's Top Jockeys



Synopsis

Pat Day, Jerry Bailey, Corey Nakatani, and other jockeys reveal how they deal with the pressure of riding horses at top speeds day in and day out, the reality of injury, and the issue of weight. "Lenny Shulman tells the stories of fourteen top jockeys in all: Chris Antley; Jerry Bailey; Russell Baze; Jorge Chavez; Pat Day; Eddie Delahoussaye (Patient Eddie is one of my all-time favorites); Kent Desormeaux; Mark Guidry; Chris McCarron; Corey Nakatani; Laffit Pincay, Jr.; Mike Smith; Gary Stevens; and Patrick Valenzuela. Reading these biographies will give you an appreciation of the physical suffering these jocks go through to stay at the top of their game."

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Customer Reviews

If you enjoyed "Seabiscuit" or have been following the saga of the jockey José Santos as he attempted to ride Funny Cide to a Triple Crown (alas it was not to be), then you might be interested in learning more about today's top American flat-racing jockeys. There were several unexpected retirements this year, including Eddie Delahoussaye, Chris McCarron, and Ironman, Laffit Pincay, Jr., so the list of top jockeys who are still race-riding is a bit out-of-date in "Ride of Their Lives." However, it is still a very interesting 'ride.' If you think "Seabiscuit's" jockeys had a rough time of it

during the Great Depression here in America, read the story of Jorge Chavez who was born in a Peruvian slum, never had a real family (he thinks he might have a dozen brothers and sisters, but knows of only three), slept on the street, and worked any job he could get. At age nineteen he visited a race track one day and fell in love with the horses. He didn't get to ride right away, though. He started out by mucking stalls and had to work his way up the ranks to acquire his jockey's license. He became the top rider at the Hipodromo Monterico in Peru, then decided to try his luck in America. It took Jorge roughly ten years in the States before he started to get the top horses. Nowadays, if you watch any of the big grade-one races, you're almost sure to spot Chavez, whose unique riding style has earned him the nickname, 'Chop Chop.' His first Derby winner was Monarchos, so if you'd like to learn more about Chavez, read "Horse of a Different Color" by Jim Squires. The tragic story of Chris Antley opens this book, balanced by the more hopeful and unfinished story of Pat Valenzuela, who has come back out of the hell of addiction and is riding top horses once more. Good luck, Pat! Lenny Shulman tells the stories of fourteen top jockeys in all: Chris Antley; Jerry Bailey; Russell Baze; Jorge Chavez; Pat Day; Eddie Delahoussaye (Patient Eddie is one of my all-time favorites); Kent Desormeaux; Mark Guidry; Chris McCarron; Corey Nakatani; Laffit Pincay, Jr.; Mike Smith; Gary Stevens; and Patrick Valenzuela. Reading these biographies will give you an appreciation of the physical suffering these jocks go through to stay at the top of their game. I personally feel they are the best, bravest professional athletes in the world--they and their Thoroughbred mounts. I had one minor problem with this book in that it didn't spend enough time on the horses. I would have liked to hear all of the top jocks talk about their best mounts. Some do, but not all, and not in enough detail to get a flavor for what it's like pounding down the track at thirty-five miles an hour, balanced on the tips of your riding boots, and trying to squeeze your thousand-pound mount into a hole between two other horses whose jockeys don't want to let you through. Whew! Even without those added details, "Ride of Their Lives" is well worth reading.

An interesting look behind the scenes of horse racing from the viewpoints of some of the leading jockeys who rode during the last thirty to forty years. Provides a concise bio of fourteen of them explaining how they got started and what they went through during their careers. Great book for anyone interested in horse racing or extraordinary individuals. Great book, but I'd like to read another one about some of the jockeys who weren't as successful yet managed to eke out a living--those that few people have even heard of like Fred Ecoffey or Danny and David Whited.

awesome book....

Every chapter brought a tear to my eye. Great athletes, riding even greater athletes! Lenny brings it all alive! Reading it now, knowing how these lives turned out 12 years later makes this book even more compelling for the racing fan.

The book arrived as promised and in great shape. Thank you very much.

Having worked at the track in the late 80's I understand the problems jockey's have. Most would be better off in a jockey hospice the first few years. This just proves that these hard working intelligent men need someone to mentor them and help them with first decisions from the start. These are young men that have succeeded in their sport but unlike OTHER PROFESSIONAL SPORTS there, , is nothing in tact to help them.

No real story, mostly jockey's bios. Nothing like the Jerry Bailey book I recentl readHere are the five more words you need.

With so many great jockeys to select from, it had to be challenge just to pare the list down to a manageable few to interview. Mr. Shulman does a fantastic job of providing insight from these Hall of Fame jockeys that the average racing fan would never have access to. If you love the giddyups, I highly recommend reading the book and learning what goes on from the jockey's perspective.

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