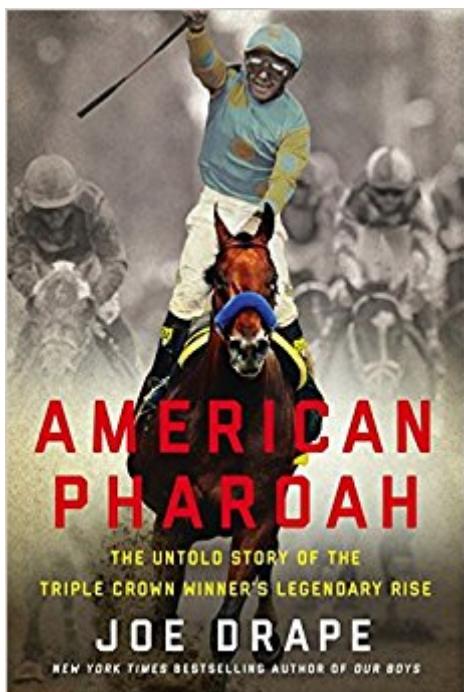


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# American Pharoah: The Untold Story Of The Triple Crown Winner's Legendary Rise



## 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.

## Customer Reviews

"The fleet-footed American Pharoah: The Untold Story of the Triple Crown Winner's Legendary Rise rides into the winner's circle via effortless prose, well-reported insider details, a compelling human cast of characters - and an irresistible horse: smart, focused and fast." •USA Today, 3 1/2 stars "The tale [Drape] spins ends up being one that transcends athletics, a story of adolescence and smalltown life. . . . From the opening practice to the Redmen's final game, Drape flawlessly paints a picture of how Smith Center achieves perfection year after year. . . . Drape gives the reader a team worth rooting for." •Publishers Weekly

History was made on June 6, 2015, when a muscled bay colt rolled out of the far turn and squared his shoulders to let his rider, Victor Espinoza, stare down the long, withering stretch of Belmont Park. A sense of inevitability surged through the mammoth old grandstand as the fans in the capacity crowd strained on the tips of their toes before letting out a roar from deep in their souls. The 37-year search for a Triple Crown winner was over. His name was American Pharoah. The colt affirmed the prophecy of Frances Relihan, an Irish horsewoman who cared for him as a baby in the bluegrass of Kentucky where dreamers and schemers match wits and pedigrees in the pursuit of building a perfect racehorse. She was the first to recognize the spirit of a champion in him. American Pharoah brought redemption to his flamboyant owner, Ahmed Zayat, whose stable was bankrupt and honor publicly questioned before the colt came along and restored his fortune and reputation. The rare talent forced his Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert to take stock of a life and career that was notorious for its controversies as his many successes in a way that a recent near-fatal heart attack and the deaths of his parents had not. Finally, for his jockey Espinoza, a generous and sensitive soul who

perhaps appreciated the coltmost, American Pharoah galloped him into the history books. From American Pharoah's modest beginnings in the Bluegrass State to his ultimate triumph in the Empire State, Joe Drape explores how the battered, old sport of horse racing found an immortal Thoroughbred, one worthy to stand alongside Sir Barton and Assault, War Admiral and Whirlaway, Citation and Secretariat, as only the 12th Triple Crown champion in history. Drape chronicles how a gifted horse named American Pharoah dropped in the laps of a group of very human horse people and, as he ran to glory, taught them all humility. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

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