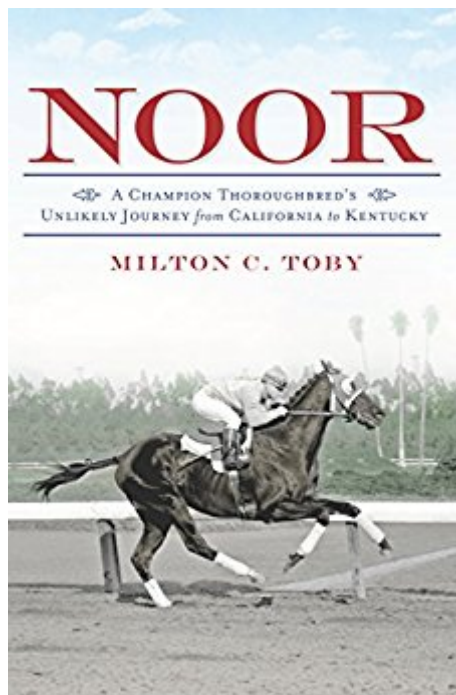




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Noor: A Champion Thoroughbred's Unlikely Journey From California To Kentucky



Synopsis

While Seabiscuit is perhaps the best-known Thoroughbred in history, Charles S. Howard owned another remarkable racehorse that should never be forgotten. Irish-bred Noor dominated the 1950 racing season, setting world records in victories over Citation and winning the Hollywood Gold Cup by defeating a Triple Crown winner, the Horse of the Year and the previous year's Kentucky Derby winner. Sadly, that fame faded as he failed to sire champions, and Noor was buried in an unmarked grave in Northern California decades later. Veteran turf writer Milt Toby recounts Noor's colorful career and the inspiring story of racing enthusiast Charlotte Farmer's personal mission to exhume the Thoroughbred's remains for reburial in central Kentucky years after the horse was inducted into the hall of fame.

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Customer Reviews

I found this to be an excellent book but there are several errors that need to be brought to the readers' attention. I wrote to author Milton Toby on October 19 through his website to (politely) point them out but never received a response. At the time of his death, Seabiscuit was actually only

fourteen, not seventeen. He was foaled in 1933 and was seven years of age when he won the 1940 Santa Anita Handicap. Sources:[...]Also Seabiscuit, an American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand, pg 326. On page 24 the statement "other sons of Nasrullah to lead the sire list included T.V. Lark, What a Pleasure, Raja Baba and Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew" should read: Other descendents of Nasrullah. The first three are all by sons of Nasrullah (Indian Hemp and Bold Ruler, respectively) and Seattle Slew is a great-great grandson of Nasrullah through Bold Ruler, Boldnesian, and Bold Reasoning. Sources:[...][...][...][...] On page 79, the statement "...Citation and Coaltown had finished first and third in the 1948 Kentucky Derby" is incorrect. Coaltown actually finished second to his famous stablemate, easily defeating third place finisher My Request by 3 lengths. Source: The Kentucky Derby, the First 100 Years by Peter Chew, pg 210, racing chart of the 1948 race. Lastly, there are a few references to Hill Prince being a Kentucky Derby winner (pg 93 for instance), but he actually was runner-up in the 1950 Kentucky Derby, as well as the Belmont Stakes, to Middleground. In between the races, Hill Prince won the Preakness. Sources: The Kentucky Derby, the First 100 Years by Peter Chew, pg 208, racing chart of the 1950 race and ,The Preakness: A History by Joseph J. Chalmers, pgs 131-133. Even though I live in Connecticut, I have been an avid fan of horse racing for 38 years and my passion is the thoroughbred horse. I have been to Kentucky and visited Churchill Downs, Winstar Farm, Old Friends, and the Kentucky Horse Park (visiting with John Henry just 3 months before the old boy was euthanized). I have attended several Belmont Stakes and visited Saratoga and the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame many times. In fact, I was at this year's edition of the Belmont Stakes and spoke to Ron Turcotte and got his autograph! What a thrill!! I own an extensive library pertaining to thoroughbreds collected over the years and, as a serious student of pedigrees, have prepared pedigree analyses for a group of thoroughbred owners in my area (Three Crowns Farm). It is a pity that the author chose not to respond to my email but I am sure readers would want to know, both for the integrity of the facts and to give the horses their proper place in history. I am Humbly and sincerely, A Devoted Fan of the Thoroughbred HorseVal

This is the story of the 1950 champion racehorse Noor who raced under the famous Charles Howard silks, beat the great Citation 3 times, set world records and never received the proper credit. Here we get to relive this magnificent period of horse racing history and learn about a remarkable horse and trainer. Unfortunately and surprisingly the breeders at the time did not want to pursue Noor as a stallion and so he went to a much humbler location in his retirement. In an era where the racetracks and training tracks are closing for the lack of income we can all lose sight of

the equine athletes who have gone before our time. One person who did not lose sight of the great Noor is Charlotte Farmer, herself part of a thoroughbred racing stable capable of campaigning champions. She fought to be able to locate the remains of this wonderful horse and find a burial site worthy of his accomplishments. Thank you Milton Toby. Both Noor and Charlotte Farmer are champions.

Loved reading about Noor. The writer told his story perfectly. If you are interested in the great champions of TB racing. Read this book.

Good book, but some issues. A previous poster commented on several errors. I will add a couple too: Toby has his first start as an Allowance at a Tanforan in Oct. This is incorrect. His first start on Oct. 14 was a win by a nose at Bay Meadows in a six furlong race. His second start was at Tanforan on Nov. 4 where he finished fourth in a six furlong race. American Race Horses of 1950 by Joe Palmer p. 43. Interestingly Toby quotes the same book, but misses this information.

A great story about a champion racehorse who was sadly neglected by breeders on his retirement to stud. Sadly, he received mostly "rubbish" mares but still sired approximately 10% stakes winners to winners. A remarkable story of how Noor was buried in an unmarked grave in Northern California and almost half a century later, he was given a proper burial in Central Kentucky. Highly recommended.

A story I had been following since it's inception; was very pleased that it came to fruition. Was happy to read about the difficulties faced in locating NOOR's burial site and recovery of remains; may he RIP at Old Friends amongst his ancestors. I was a little disappointed to see that the story of how his deserted California ranch/barn "home" had a "Haunted" aspect to visitors and workers, which had not been included in the book; it was on the "net, and should have been mentioned, either as possibly true, or disclaimed. I think it would have leant more to the story.

Well written.

So glad that this stallion was brought to life in this account of his racing career and stallion duties. Certainly as important as Seabiscuit.

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