

OUT OF THE CLOUDS

**The Unlikely Horseman and the Unwanted Colt
Who Conquered the Sport of Kings**



LINDA CARROLL & DAVID ROSNER

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In the bestselling tradition of the *The Eighty-Dollar Champion*, the propulsive, inspiring Cinderella story of Stymie, an unwanted Thoroughbred, and Hirsch Jacobs, the once dirt-poor trainer who bought the colt on the cheap and molded him into the most popular horse of his time and the richest racehorse the world had ever seen.

In the wake of World War II, as turmoil and chaos were giving way to a spirit of optimism, Americans were looking for inspiration and role models showing that it was possible to start from the bottom and work your way up to the top-and they found it in Stymie, the failed racehorse plucked from the discard heap by trainer Hirsch Jacobs. Like Stymie, Jacobs was a commoner in "The Sport of Kings," a dirt-poor Brooklyn city slicker who forged an unlikely career as racing's winningest trainer by buying cheap, unsound nags and magically transforming them into winners. The \$1,500 pittance Jacobs paid to claim Stymie became history's biggest bargain as the ultimate iron horse went on to run a whopping 131 races and win 25 stakes, becoming the first Thoroughbred ever to earn more than \$900,000. The Cinderella champion nicknamed "The People's Horse" captivated the masses with his rousing charge-from-behind stretch runs, his gritty blue-collar work ethic, and his rags-to-riches success story. In a golden age when horse racing rivaled baseball and boxing as America's most popular pastime, he was every bit as inspiring a sports hero as Joe DiMaggio and Joe Louis.

Taking readers on a crowd-pleasing ride with Stymie and Jacobs, *Out of the Clouds* unwinds a real-life Horatio Alger tale of a dauntless team and its working-class fans who lived vicariously through the stouthearted little colt they embraced as their own.

Out of the Clouds: The Unlikely Horseman and the Unwanted Colt Who Conquered the Sport of Kings Details

Date : Published May 29th 2018 by Hachette Books

ISBN :

Author : Linda Carroll , David Rosner

Format : Kindle Edition 320 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Biography, Animals, Horses, Sports and Games, Sports



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From Reader Review Out of the Clouds: The Unlikely Horseman and the Unwanted Colt Who Conquered the Sport of Kings for online ebook

Gloria says

If you like horse stories you may like this book. Its about an immigrant boy who starts out racing pigeons and through that meets a man who encourages him to try his hand at training race horses. It also talks about some of the gangsters and hustlers that were around at the time. It mentions Damon Runyon and what he was doing and who he knew Etc. but in the main its about the young man who trains horses that others find difficult to handle and he seems to have a knack for it. To see what else happens and how it all comes out in the end I will let you read and judge for yourself. Happy reading

Charlie Fenwick says

Enjoyable biography of Hirsch Jacobs

Michael Sparrow says

Extremely moving and evocative of an era.

Sharon says

Those who've read my reviews over the years know that I am a horse-lover, and that I have a particular fondness for underdog stories.

The tale of Stymie, and his trainer Hirsch Jacobs, combines both. Jacobs, who started his career buying inexpensive "claimers" at the track, found an unlikely champion in Stymie, and grandson of the great Man O'War. The horse was tall and handsome, but he liked to lag at the back of the pack, Stymie's bloodline appealed to Jacobs, who studied pedigrees in horses the same way he had once studied them in his racing pigeons. So, despite the horse's poor record, he added him to the stable of claimers that he ran (in Jacobs' own words) like a fleet of taxicabs.

Under Jacobs' training, and with the right jockeys on-board, Stymie proved himself a winner repeatedly ... with a preference for lagging at the start and then putting on the speed toward the end, often smoking the competition by several lengths.

This is an entertaining and lively book, well-sourced (there are lengthy biographical notes), and well-written. We get to see Stymie through the eyes of sportswriter Damon Runyon and many others. I enjoyed the book a great deal.

Melinda M says

Out of the Clouds: The Unlikely Horseman and the Unwanted Colt Who Conquered the Sport of Kings by Linda Carroll is a story of how horse racing got a Cinderella story after World War II. History of the trainer (Jacobs) and his partner (Bieber) makes the story interesting and helps to understand the story of Stymie who is the unwanted colt. The history of the King Ranch helps moves the story and gives some background to the history of racing as well. It is well written. The story flows and keeps your interest. If you like horses ,the time right after WWII, horse racing or history, you will enjoy this story.

I received a copy thru a Goodreads Giveaway.

Bonnie Staughton says

As a person with a "passion" for horses, naturally I was very happy when I won this book on Goodreads Giveaways. Along with a great deal of information on racing and, specifically, those that bet on races, comes the story of Stymie and his trainer Hirsch Jacobs. Jacobs claimed Stymie for \$1500 in a claiming race and went on to earn \$918,485 with him. This small, gangly Thoroughbred with his head held high had a unique way of running the races "his way" and as long as the jockey didn't interfere, chances were good that he would be one of the top 3 placers. "Out of the Clouds" refers to his coming from behind racing technique and racing through the dust and sea of horses to become a front runner.

This book was also a "history" of the times and how things work at the track.

Valerity (Val) says

This is a beautifully written story about a red-haired boy Hirsch Jacobs, who became a wonderful pigeon trainer and then was later introduced to horse training. He partners up with Izzy Bieber, an inveterate gambler and businessman who provides the capital to buy the horses for Hirsch to train. They run their stable of horses like a business and not a hobby and in time become successful and then some.

Yet they are known for buying mostly cheap "claimers" or horses picked up in claiming races, where the owner allows them to be sold for a set amount if the horse races to anyone paying the claim fee and filing for them before the race starts. It's usually done on a losing or recalcitrant young horse that the owner is fed up with and just wants off their hands.

Jacobs turned out to have a real talent for figuring out what these horses needed to become race ready, even to compete against more expensive horses with better breeding bought by the rich horse people. The types who paid others to find and train their horses for them and just did it as a hobby, only hoping to be able to stand in the winner's circle one day.

He was a horse whisperer back before anyone knew what such a thing was. He was great at learning from others during his early years just hanging around the tracks and helping out, asking lots of insightful questions and by the time he started training and trying different things himself, he was becoming a natural.

The book gives lots of history on the different race tracks all over mostly the eastern US and even in Cuba from back in that time. Much of the focus is of course on the wonderful chestnut colt he gets in a claiming race and turned into a champion named Stymie.

“This was a bright red horse, a showy chestnut with a crooked blaze that gave him an almost comic, devil-may-care look”...”He held his red head high, and the faster he ran the higher he held it. Sort of like the redhead he worked for.”

An enjoyable book for those who like history, horses, non-fiction and rags to riches, it’s a great story. An advance digital copy was provided by NetGalley, authors Linda Carroll & David Rosner, and the publisher for my honest review.

Hachette Books

Publication: May 29, 2018.

My Bookzone blog at Wordpress: <https://wordpress.com/post/bookblog20...>

Beverly says

In the wake of World War II, Stymie, a failed racehorse bought by trainer Hirsch Jacobs in a placer race, captures the hearts of post WWII America. A rags to riches story - an underdog - both horse and trainer - who won. Jacobs was a commoner, a poor Brooklyn city slicker who forged a career as racing's winningest trainer by buying cheap nags and transforming them into winners. The \$1,500 price Jacobs paid for Stymie became the biggest bargain as the horse went on to run a whopping 131 races and win 25 stakes, becoming the first Thoroughbred to earn more than \$900,000. A delight to read.

Tami says

I love reading books about famous horses, and Stymie was one horse that is definitely worth knowing about. His breeders wrote him off early on, but Hirsch Jacobs saw his potential and it payed off in a big way during the WWII years when the public needed to rally around a champion.

Stymie was bought by trainer, Hirsch Jacobs in a claiming race for a dirt cheap price. Once under Jacobs care, Stymie blossomed into one of the most powerful racehorses in the history of the sport and earned Jacobs more money than he ever would have dared to imagine.

The story begins with Jacobs as a boy racing pigeons. As he grew older, he became interested in horses and applied his knowledge of pigeons to the horses. Jacobs was an honest family man who did not gamble, but ended up in a partnership with well-known gambler and bachelor, Isador Beiber. What was unusual about the partnership was that neither were part of the Blueblood wealthy horsing world.

There is quite a bit about gambling in the book in reference to horse racing, but overall this is a very clean book and chronicles Jacobs' lifetime and the life and career of Stymie, a thoroughbred born on the King Ranch in Texas. The book focuses on their appeal to the public as representing the common folk in a sport that tended to only be available to the wealthy and connected

Overall I enjoyed the book and think anyone who loves reading about animals and horse racing will find this an interesting read.

Many thanks to NetGalley and Hatchette Books for providing an advance copy so that I could offer my honest review.

East Greenbush Community Library says

A fascinating glimpse into America between the wars through the lens of a great racehorse and his trainer.

Upper Hudson Library System members, reserve a copy of this book [here](#).

Anna Fox says

Tons of history on the trainer (Jacobs) and his partner (Bieber), some on the King Ranch. Stymie doesn't come into the story until about half way through, however. I did like that the book didn't do too much jumping around time-wise. I would have been interested in knowing what happened to the Jacobs' kids. I received an advanced copy from Netgalley for an honest review.

Sandi says

I like a story of someone who through hard work succeeded in his work to train horses for racing and winning . Stymie was the horse that made this possible

Gary tuttle says

A real good book. Passed it on to two serious horse players.
