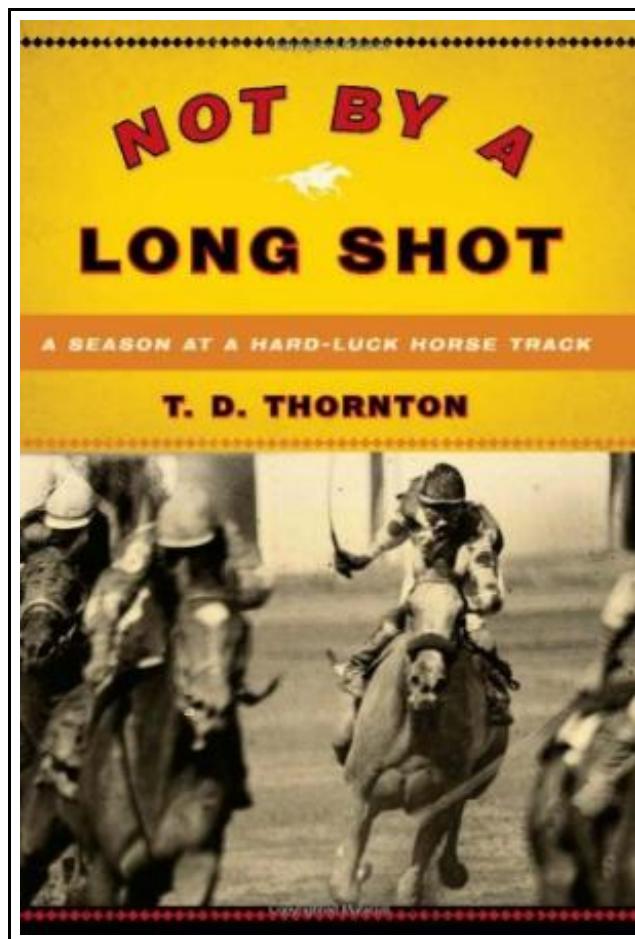


Not by a Long Shot: A Season at a Hard Luck Horse Track



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PublicAffairs, 2007. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: Once host to turf champions such as Seabiscuit and boisterous throngs of 40,000 spectators, Suffolk Downs, are relentless urban betting factory on the outskirts of Boston, now struggles to survive. "Sufferin' Downs" is where grizzled Thoroughbreds come to end their careers, hopeful jockeys and talented young trainers aspire against daunting odds to begin them, and a small but steadfast legion of diehard fans grinds and gambles in collective desperation against the vagaries of logic, luck and life. Decidedly more blue-collar than blue-blooded, these bit players are not just the cogs of a single, struggling horse track. They also function as the unseen supporting cast for America's \$15 billion betting industry. Long-time racing writer and aficionado TD Thornton worked at Suffolk Downs for a decade, first as a reporter for The Boston Globe and The Racing Times, and then as its media director. He was granted behind-the-scenes access to racetrack life usually off limits to the general public, from the stable shedrows to the jockey's locker room to the company boardroom and, during the course of one recent racing season, finally decided to write it all down. Contemporary racing literature is full of fawning portrayals of high-profile horses and humans who have achieved success in high profile events. Yet in reality, the sport's most gripping tales come from obscure characters who toil in anonymity at under-the-radar racetracks everywhere: Minimum-wage stable-hands chopping ice from frozen water buckets in pre-dawn winter darkness; grooms who sleep in stalls and cry over sick steeds that aren't worth much more than a saddle; jockeys who starve themselves for the privilege of piloting nothing but losers, and - above all - the fragile yet immeasurably tenacious Thoroughbreds running as fast as they can, as hard as they...



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