



OLD BOW PUBLISHING

Contact: James Elliott
Old Bow Publishing
james@oldbowpublishing.com

RAJA, Story of a Racehorse

by Anne Hambleton

“Reminiscent of Anna Sewell’s 19th-century classic, *Black Beauty*, in its deeply felt narrative as voiced by a thoroughbred racehorse, this first-time novel for ages 11 and up is written with empathy and a vivid sense of drama by Hambleton, a lifelong equestrian and former amateur steeplechase jockey Hambleton makes an impressive outing as a first-time author of juvenile fiction, weaving her knowledge and love of horses, horsemanship and the world of competitive racing into a moving narrative that will keep fellow horse-loving readers of any age enthralled.” *Kirkus*

Only winning counts, every racehorse knows that. But what happens when you don’t win? Written from the horse’s point of view and filled with authentic details, *RAJA, Story of a Racehorse* chronicles the life of a well-bred Thoroughbred racehorse destined for greatness. After a promising – and winning - start on the path to the Triple Crown, a series of bad luck events end Raja’s racing career and he finds himself pulled into the random world of “off-the-track-Thoroughbreds.”

Anne Hambleton, a former steeplechase jockey with forty years of experience in several equestrian disciplines, was inspired by her own ex-racehorses that are now on their third or fourth careers. “Raja’s story could be true. There are endless stories of ex-racehorses that have gone on to excel in other disciplines after racing...or, that have slipped through the cracks. I wanted to make *RAJA* realistic and educational, yet a fun read.”

Raja’s odyssey takes him from the breeding farms of Ocala, Florida to stakes races on Kentucky Derby trail; from competing as a show jumper on the “A” show circuit and

duties as a member of the New York City Mounted Police to the horrors of the livestock auction and the “kill trucks” headed to slaughter houses in Canada and Mexico. And finally to the stable of Paddy Murphy, a retired steeplechase jockey and his sixteen-year old niece, Dee where Raja finally has a chance to realize his destiny as he and Dee discover “the big sticks” – steeplechase racing over Maryland’s famed timber courses.

“*RAJA* is an authentic story. Most authors haven’t ridden what they write. Anne Hambleton has. She knows what it feels like to gallop down to the post of the Maryland Hunt Cup, and she conveys those sensations to her readers with a sharp immediacy that is certain to delight and enthrall.”

Denny Emerson, Hall of Fame Three Day Event rider/trainer,
Olympian and author of *How Good Riders Get Good*

"A compelling tale of the courage and resilience of a great Thoroughbred, my favorite breed."

Michael Matz, Hall of Fame Show Jumper, Olympic medalist and
trainer of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner, Barbaro

RAJA, Story of a Racehorse

by Anne Hambleton

Old Bow Publishing

\$12.95 Tradepaper

ISBN# 978-0-615-54029-0

www.rajaracehorse.com

About the Author:

A lifelong horsewoman and former amateur steeplechase jockey, Anne Hambleton has competed in a wide range of equestrian disciplines, including eventing and jumpers. Like Raja, Anne’s life has been a journey of many different steps. After graduating from Middlebury College and earning an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Anne worked for the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), co-founded the Center for Sustainable Development in the Americas and worked on corporate carbon emission reduction and renewable energy solutions for Ecos Technologies and Native Energy. Now a renewable energy and corporate sustainability consultant, Anne lives on a farm in Vermont with her family and several ex-racehorses she actively trains and competes. *Raja, Story of a Racehorse* is her first novel.

About the Illustrator:

Internationally known for her portraits and sculptures of both people and animals, Margaret “Peggy” Kauffman, works in bronze and stone as a sculptor and pastels as a painter. Her work has received awards from the American Academy of Equine Art and the Kentucky Derby Museum and has been featured on the cover of *Chronicle of the Horse* and in *Spur*, *Equine Images* and *Country and Abroad* magazines.

In addition to *Raja, Story of a Racehorse*, Peggy has illustrated *The Fox's Morning* by Anne McIntosh and *Clayton in the Moonlight* by Jessi McQuilkin. A former upper-level eventer and amateur hunter/jumper rider, Peggy lives in Millerton, New York with her two horses.

You can see more of Peggy’s work on her website, www.peggykauffman.com