



Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, the Family, the Legend

Kate Chenery Tweedy , Leeanne Ladin , Wayne Dementi (Photographer)

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Presents the story of how the Chenerey family came to breed and race Secretariat along with the history of the family and the land in which they bred racehorses.

Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, the Family, the Legend Details

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Author : Kate Chenery Tweedy , Leeanne Ladin , Wayne Dementi (Photographer)

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From Reader Review Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, the Family, the Legend for online ebook

Traci says

I love this book. I don't even care how many times I read about this it still makes me teary.

It's really hard to talk about books you love! There were a lot of full-color photos and the author (and Secretariat's human sister :P) writes well and passionately. It was a really classy bio given that I'm sure there were lots of dramatics going on behind closed doors. I'm glad she didn't go there.

Kristi | Hidden Staircase | says

After I watched the movie "Secretariat," I wanted to learn more about the true story of the horse and the Chenery family. I started with the book "Secretariat" by William Nack. This was an extremely detailed account of bloodlines and training. If you want to know all the ins and outs of Secretariat, that is the book for you. If you are interested in The Meadow - the land, the Chenery family, the horses, and those who worked there - check out "Secretariat's Meadow." Written by Kate Chenery Tweedy, this is a loving account of the history of her family and their history at the Meadow.

A coffee table-style book, it is full of beautiful pictures of the Meadow and its occupants through the years. While not too technical, the personal account from Penny's daughter's perspective was a delight to read.

Amber says

If you like biographies then you will enjoy this book. I only got half-way through it. I'm not a fan of biographies, but hey, I loved the movie.

Azra says

This book turned out to be more about the history of the farm and people that bred and raised Secretariat but that's okay. It was a good read.

Wendy says

This book doesn't bring much new information to the table, but the tidbits that *are* new are very interesting. There are pictures I've never seen before, which was cool.

It's not really about Secretariat, but as he was the most famous horse to race for the Meadow, it's an appropriate draw for this book's most likely audience. I think even non-horse people could enjoy this, though, if they have any interest in family histories.

Tara says

Kate Chenery Tweedy is a member of my church and I met her back in April 2009. It wasn't until March/April 2010 that I discovered her mother was the owner of the famed horse, Secretariat. Kate gave a wonderful speech and photo presentation to a large audience at the Bemis Public Library in Littleton, Colorado several months ago as a preview to the release of this book. At that presentation, many of us were amazed at the strength and conviction the Penny Chenery had when it came to saving her family's home, The Meadow, as well as her father's numerous horses (which included Something Royal, the mother of Secretariat).

Secretariat is a name that I have heard all of my life, my grandfather and mother both were fans of the horse and both watched him win the Triple Crown. When Barbaro raced the Kentucky Derby, my mother referenced Secretariat as she spoke about Barbaro's beauty, strength and speed. I have always been a fan of Secretariat without truly knowing what it was about him that drew me to him. I was very excited when Kate informed us that she had written a book about her family and what led to her mother becoming the owner/breeder of Secretariat.

I read this book in one day. Kate, I think, did a very thorough job of researching her family history back to her great-grandfather (and beyond in some chapters) and how her grandfather, Christopher Chenery, came to be the proud owner of The Meadow and several well-bred horses. This book focuses more on the Chenery family more than on Secretariat, but I do feel a lot of justice was done in regards to Penny Chenery and how she came to be the one to take over the Meadow and race Secretariat. Kate and Leeann tell a very clear story about the history of The Meadow, and how it survived (and thrived) through both good times and bad. The book is filled with pictures of her ancestors as well as the staff who worked with Secretariat in 1970-73. I recently told Kate how much I enjoyed reading her book and learning so much about her own history. She said it was an insightful journey for her and she really enjoyed being able to tell the story of the people and the land that bred this amazing Triple Crown winner, Secretariat.

Linda says

This is the selection for the Epworth Book Club for July.

Gary says

If you love the horse, you will love the back story. A very interesting read about the history of the family, farm and Big Red. There is more to the story than the flash of derby day, this book tells of the struggles to keep the farm, the breeding operation focused and the people who made it all happen.

BarbaraW says

Great companion historical picture book to Nack's bio of the famous thoroughbred. Takes you from early British land ownership in Va thru present. Really wanted more info and pictures of the handsome horse. Nicely done. Sense of tragedy with so many children and people in general lost to disease and then the hardships of the Civil War and The Great Depression.

Janelle says

This a lovely book if you want to know about the Chenery family and farm instead of only of Secretariat. Written by Penny Chenery's daughter, it is full of great photos and information. Penny's autograph made it that much more special to me.

Sandra says

I really liked it. =)

Bonnie says

What I liked best about Secretariat's Meadow is that it was not yet another rehashing of the wonder horse's career. Certainly, the 1973 Triple Crown winner had a major part to play in this story, but it was really the story of the Chenery family and the Virginia land that was The Meadow. I loved watching Penny Chenery's (owner of Secretariat) daughter recount the long history of the land, back to the 1700's, and how it came to the Chenery family. She traced the different branches of the family before focusing on her grandfather's legacy of raising Thoroughbred racehorses. The pictures of the farm, the family, and the horses they raised are beautiful and the story is lovely. A very nice Christmas gift from my friend Judy.

Lauren Ward says

Secretariat's Meadow

"Secretariat's Meadow-The Land, The Family, The Legend" is a non-fiction story by Kate Chenery Tweedy that is full of history, family pride, and of course horses. Kate dedicates her book to her mother, Penny Chenery, and grandfather, Christopher Chenery, when she describes the beautiful piece of land, The Meadow, where an empire was built and a legend named Secretariat was born. It is apparent from the book that Kate, the youngest of three, idolized her father. The photos and descriptions make the story a delightful read.

The book begins with a long history of The Meadow in Caroline County, Virginia dating back to the Civil War and provides personal experiences at the farm and track. Christopher Chenery used his successful business background to buy back The Meadow for his family and use this land as a horse farm empire. His goal was to breed a winner of the Kentucky Derby. When his health got bad, his daughter Penny took over the farm and continued in the family tradition. It is refreshing to see how a woman in her day and age proved that she could run this empire and bring it back to a successful business.

While I enjoyed the story, it got off to a slow start and spent most of the time dealing with the background of The Meadow. However, my interest was sparked when the story turned to focus on the birth of Secretariat and described his victories as "America's Super Horse." It was by chance on a coin toss that Secretariat would come into the Chenery's lives. For the true horse fan, this book is a must read to see how bad luck of losing a bet turned into good luck.

In 1973, Secretariat started out as a strong and promising horse and ended up at the top of the record books. He won his first race at Bay Shore Stakes and later became the first horse to win the Kentucky Derby in a record-breaking time, just under two minutes. Secretariat's record still stands. "When Secretariat passed other horses at top speed, he reminded the other jockeys of the Red Ball Express" (Chenery Tweedy 112). The book describes the thrill of the Preakness with Secretariat barely edging out his rival, Sham. However, the best was yet to come. Secretariat wowed his fans by winning the Belmont by 31 lengths in a race record time of 2:24 flat. Kate describes how fans felt about Secretariat and stated as follows: "Decades later, fans remember Secretariat, I believe, because for the 2:24 minutes of the Belmont they experienced the pure joy of seeing a performance that so exceeds rational expectations that they know, deep down, they will never see anything like it again" (Chenery Tweedy 131).

Joylynnne says

This is more of a coffee table book. I received it from my parents for Christmas. The history and photos are great, and I really enjoy that it was written by Kate who grew up during the time her mother, Penny, managed the Meadow Stud, and reveled in Secretariat's life. I look forward to enjoying this for years to come.

Susan Clark-cook says

I bought this book after seeing the movie, and was amazed by this stunning horse, his huge heart, and the determined woman who loved him. He was such a beautiful horse, looking at the pictures is always an exercise in awe...what an animal! His records still have never been matched and I remain interested in reading more about him. Great book, great pictures, and interesting history and story.