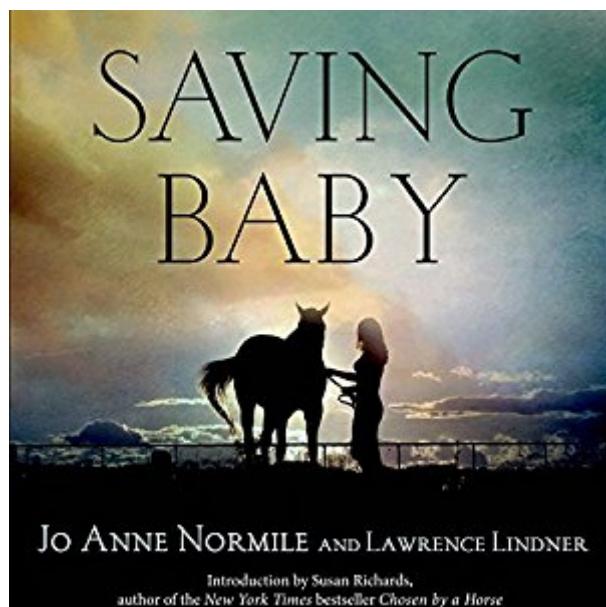


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Saving Baby: How One Woman's Love For A Racehorse Led To Her Redemption



Synopsis

"If we see cruelty or wrong that we have the power to stop, and do nothing, we make ourselves sharers in the guilt." (Anna Sewell, author of Black Beauty) Jo Anne Normile was not supposed to keep the foal, an exuberant Thoroughbred with only a few white hairs on his reddish-brown forehead. But she fell in love with the young horse, who had literally been born into her arms. The breeder finally said she could keep the colt, whom she nicknamed "Baby" - but only if she raced him. It was difficult to take Baby away from the safety of his pasture. But Normile had made a promise. Besides, horseracing had always come across as a glamorous blend of mint juleps and celebrity, of equine grace and speed. It was a vision she found appealing. And she fell hard for it, this "Sport of Kings". She experienced a thrill every time Baby sprinted around the track, edging out other horses. But the magic that enchants is a veneer. For every Seabiscuit, there are tens of thousands of racehorses whose lives end in pain and despair, with indifference and corruption that runs rampant through the world of horse racing. Normile knew none of this. Not until an accident on a poorly maintained track. That's when everything changed. That's when Normile founded the most successful horse rescue in the country, an organization that would go on to save more horses than anyone else ever had. That's when she knew she had no other choice. Saving Baby is Jo Anne Normile's story of perseverance and passion. A heartbreakingly beautiful and ultimately life-affirming audiobook, it testifies to the transcending power of hope, and the unshakeable bond of love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the most awesome books I have read. If you love horses or not there is something

here that Jo Anne talks about and that most people don't know about. The treatment of animals behind the scenes of racing is astonishing and I know I had never thought of it this way. Jo Anne describes the getting caught up in the excitement of racing and meeting the people on top and the grooms in the shed row. Also when a horse develops leg problems do you send it to the kill buyer? Is that all he is worth? Jo Anne mentions having Scarlett and she is a granddaughter of Secretariat. Having her in the pasture is more than just awesome in my view. I came face to face with some of the same things that she did as I was reading the book and realizing that yes I had done that too in regards to my family. Read the book. It is inspiring.

i grew up around horse racing and was born with a love and passion for horses. My dad was a groom at Arlington Park and I went with him and hot walked race horses and mucked out stalls and ate hot dogs off the floor. Loved the smells and the excitement! I was going to be a girl jockey but my mom wouldn't let me ! Never missed a Triple Crown race and rode equestrian. My eyes were opened a few years ago to the horrors behind the dark doors of horse racing. I stopped watching any race. I Will not condone these death races. Jo Anne has brought out to the public these daunting and horrific travesties that occur and the traumas and deaths inflicted on these beautiful courageous animals who deserve so much more. If you already knew what goes on behind the real doors of horse racing you will know more. If you knew nothing you will not believe what you will now know. The disgusting treatment of horses around the world including the holocaust against our wild mustangs who end up in the terrors of the slaughter pipeline need to be brought into the highest exposure for the public to see !! Horses who are dumped at auctions right into kill buyers hands happens in numbers beyond imagination. Pregnant mares and mares with foals sent to slaughter constantly. It sickens me to beyond comprehension. Mares deliver foals on kill trailers, in kill pens. This all needs to be stopped. Pass the SAFE ACT!! STOP THE ROUNDUPS. OPEN YOUR EYES AND ALL THOSE YOU KNOW!!! Joanne's work is astounding and courageous just like the horses she has fought to save and her special Baby! What a horse and what a girl!! Your story is so moving, full of what the world needs to know. Your rescues are phenomenal and so ever important for horses. Someday I hope to visit CANTER. WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFESAVING RESCUE! Thank you for writing this eye opening compassionate book Jo Anne! I hope to meet you one day!!

This is an incredible detailed account of what is really going on behind the scenes of America's horse racing business. As European jockey / exercise rider I had 15 years of experience in this sport, working closely with these amazing animals and loved every second of it. After moving to the

US it took me approximately 3 years to learn what is being done to the horses here and I left the sport feeling ashamed and helpless. Jo Anne's experiences come from an even 'higher level', as she was able to connect to many people in the different associations, commissions, etc. With her unconditional love to these amazing creatures, who give their all to us in each training session and race, she was able to save hundreds of them and build up a great rescue organization. She devoted years of her life to this cause, almost neglecting her own family and personal animals in the process. She received high awards and much media attention, yet the very sad and almost disgusting fact is: that not much has changed. Thoroughbred horses are still bred each year to be thrown away if not sold, abused and pumped full of drugs, and very often run to death.

I loved this book but continue to be angry after reading it, or when I think about it! My husband and I had racehorses in the '80's in Oklahoma, California and Idaho.. We had heard horror stories and searched for good and reputable trainers, handlers and jockeys for our babies. We were lucky enough to have reputable caring people who were in our breeds, Quarter Horses and Appaloosas, as well as the classy Thoroughbred, and we had champions. Our trainer and jockeys are all well known and have won the Derby, and other big races as such in their respective areas of expertise, but out of respect shall go unnamed since I've not asked their permission. It is an expensive industry but there is no reason on earth to put these beautiful creatures in danger as this woman did. I'm reminded of the beautiful filly named Ruffian, who beat all her male competitors, and the owners wanted to run her in a 'challenge' race to see who was the better of the two sexes. Well, they killed this filly in my opinion and for what? For egos? For the record books? These beauties don't ask to be beaten, or sored, or given Lasix for better breathing, or to have things attached to their feet to enhance performances. They don't run for blankets, or trophies, or accolades. They just want to run and don't need that stuff. The better horse will win on any given day.....let them do it without ruining them. Then when one gets too expensive to maintain at the track, and they aren't pulling their own and paying their way, they are shipped off to the slaughter house for the Japanese to eat as a 'delicacy'. This is a truly sick and barbaric practice. She helped to bring this to light and I commend her for that, but she still in fact allowed her beautiful colt to die a tragic, needless death for her own ego! And almost did the same thing to one of her fillies. Thank God she decided not to do it, or she might have killed her too, again just for her own ego. I'm sorry I have such anger toward her, and I disagree strongly with 'redemption' being in the title, but I'm glad she made something good come out of all of it. It is a read one won't want to stop, and I advise a box of tissue be nearby, but if you love and respect horses as much as I do, then I think you will be angry

too. Baby would forgive her so I guess I must too, but I'm having difficulty doing so. Hopefully I'll get there.

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