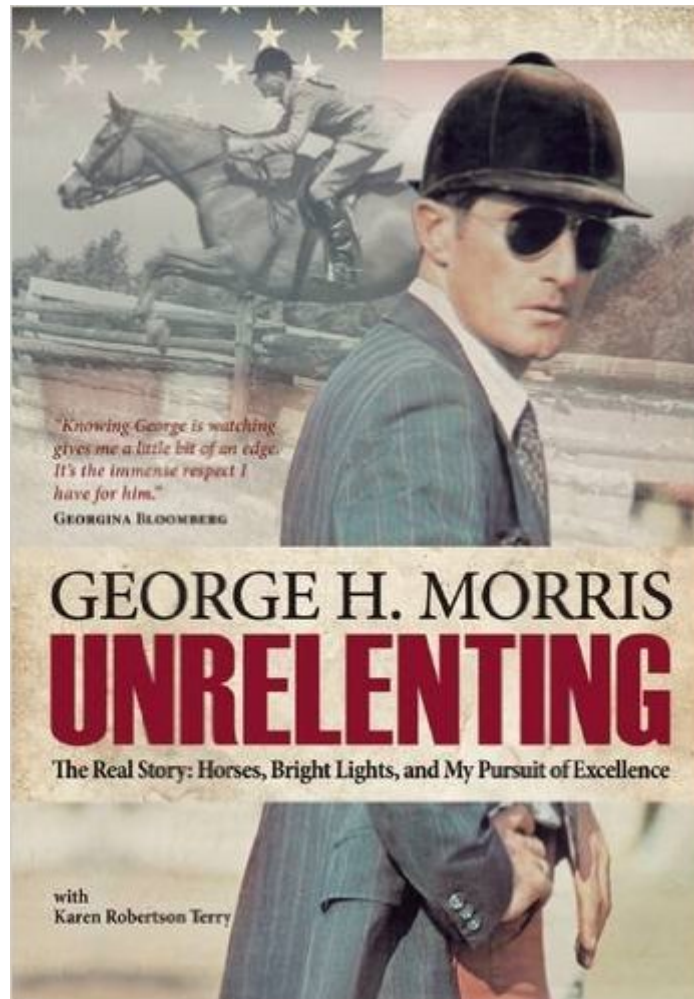


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Unrelenting: The Real Story: Horses, Bright Lights And My Pursuit Of Excellence



Synopsis

If there is one name in the American equestrian story that everyone knows, it is George Morris. A horse lover, rider, carouser, competitor, taskmaster, dreamer, teacher, and visionary, George Morris has been ever-present on the rarified stage of the international riding elite for most of the 70 years he's been in the saddle. He has represented our country as an athlete and a coach and, at one time or another, instructed many of our nation's best horsemen and women. His carefully chosen, perfectly enunciated words are notoriously powerful. They can raise you up or cut you to the quick. His approval can be a rainmaker; his derision can end a career. But as much as people know and respect (or, perhaps, fear) the public face of George Morris, he has lived, in other ways, a remarkably private life, keeping his own personal struggles with insecurity, with ambition, and with love behind closed doors. It is only now that he has chosen, in his own words, to share the totality of his life—the very public and the incredibly private—with the world. This engrossing autobiography, the real story of the godlike George Morris, beautifully demonstrates his ultimate humanity.

Book Information

Hardcover: 560 pages

Publisher: Trafalgar Square Books (March 22, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570767106

ISBN-13: 978-1570767104

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 2.1 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #28,235 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Racing #13 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Equestrian #13 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Horses > Riding

Customer Reviews

This writer has the best fundamentals of our group this month, but exhibits many of the flaws so common in today's publishing arena. The lack of adherence to the classical principles of writing detracts from what is an otherwise solid book. This author needs to spend several weeks writing without stirrups before attempting a project of this size. This writer is advanced enough to execute an

automatic release but has resorted to a crest release, creating a broken line between plot elements. Instead of relying on the fundamentals to provide a solid base, he is leaning on pretty pictures for support. His back is flat and his eyes are up. This book appears to be a very capable story. However, many of the transitions in this book are abrupt and on the forehand. With more attention to detail this book could go from adequate to a superstar. Until the basics are mastered at home, I would not allow this book to be published. This book is a good rough draft, but needs some polish to really shine. Spending at least 45 minutes each day editing would make it a standout on the book shelf. Flashy elements, such as exclamation points, detract from the story and should be used sparingly, or not at all! The mane needs to be pulled and the subtitle could use a trim. The author needs to pay more attention to details to really show this book's true potential. Despite the above critique, we gave this book 5 stars because it has George Morris standing at the in-gate.

I am not sure that someone who is not at least familiar with horse showing would understand some of this book. But for those of us who have lived with the influence that George Morris has had on equitation, hunters, and jumpers this is a wonderful biography and history. He shares some of his own life in a way that has not happened before. Having finished the book, I keep saying to myself "he was part of Studio 54 nightlife?!?!?" and smiling. He has been involved in show history for so long that the book is almost a history of showing in the US and beyond with some wonderful stories from the entire world of show jumping. Of course, George would write a great book. He is unrelenting in everything he does. But this one is fun too. Just be sure to keep your boots well-shined and soak in some of what it takes to be a world-class equestrian. I hope he has many more years so that the second edition will have more great stories.

A totally different George than what I imagined. I've never been lucky enough to ride in a clinic with him or even audit one but I always heard he was a holy terror for discipline. He is that, but he also has quite the wild side that was totally unexpected. I really enjoyed the book. The photos are fantastic too. One of my pet peeves are book photos that are too small and blurry to read.

For a reader like me who grew up on the fringes of the A circuit in the 70s, it's a wonderful gossipy, nostalgic read. (My junior show barn is mentioned a couple of times, as well as many riders I knew and admired.) George's voice, is well, 100% George and pretty much as you'd expect from his clinic persona. His ego, his flair for drama and turn of phrase, and his notorious attention to detail are all present and accounted for. (While they are included, he airily dismisses his suspensions for both

reserpine and poling, all while insisting that he does things the slow, methodical, classical way.) I bought the hard cover version for the photos, and it was well worth it. I find the other reviewer's comments about his personal life puzzling. There was absolutely nothing graphic in this memoir, he is positively coy and circumspect when he describes his personal life. And from the 70s on, there was simply never any question of his sexual orientation. He was about as out as it was possible to be. I just don't understand where either the shock or the distaste are coming from. I find it hard to imagine that anyone outside the hunters or the jumpers industries would have much interest in this book, but for those of us that are or have been inside that world, it's fascinating. If you want to know about the evolution of forward seat riding, hunter seat equitation, the amateur rule, the evolution of the selection process for our Olympic Teams or just read a lot of gossip about virtually everyone in the business, then you'll thoroughly enjoy this memoir.

I'm not sure if someone who has no knowledge or background in horse showing/hunters/jumpers would appreciate the book as much as I did. But I didn't want the book to end, savored it as a glass of fine wine and enjoyed the length of it. I was a little kid who who grew up on the "poor side" of Darien (where Ox Ridge is) who worshipped horses and her distant cousin (who rode in the Garden in the late 60's with Ronnie Mutch-GHM's early riding buddy), then this kid (me) learned to ride and care for horses at New Canaan Mounted Troop (having no idea until reading that book that George ever rode there briefly), and moved on to groom on the A circuit, braiding horses and traveling to various shows with different trainers over the years--all of whom were mentioned in the book and many of the riders. I even went to the Invitational a few months before heading off to college in 1976. I groomed for about 10-15 of the people George mentioned in this book during the 70's before and during my college years--all except George, LOL! Reading this book was amazing as I only experienced him peripherally as I worked many of the shows he also did. Florida and the Northeastern circuit: Ox Ridge, Fairfield, Boulder Brook, such memories--he was, back then, quite a fearsome character, many of us were scared to death of him!! really enjoyed this book, hearing from George's perspective and how the sport has progressed. Over the past 20 years, I would come back and visit ORHS with my kids and was surprised to see how much the show and sport had changed. It was helpful to read the GHM version of the context of these changes. Since reading this, I've taken to watching GHM clinics online with my 18 year old (horse crazy) daughter! Thanks, George for your contribution to keeping the horse's well-being a priority and helping people be better horsemen/women. Nice read!

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