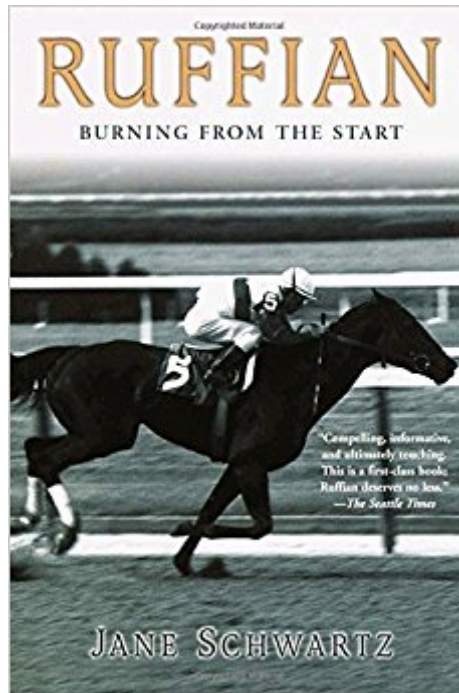




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# Ruffian: Burning From The Start



## Synopsis

During two short seasons at the track, Ruffian was hailed as the greatest thoroughbred filly of all time. Unbeaten in her first ten starts, she shattered one record after another, dazzling crowds with both her beauty and her brilliant speed. Then tragedy struck on the afternoon of July 6, 1975. Ruffian broke down on the lead in the middle of a match race at Belmont Park. Later that night she had to be destroyed. *Ruffian: Burning from the Start* is the story of this exceptional filly, a horse so dominating, so powerful, that writer Walter Farley once suggested she was more like the fictional legend, the Black Stallion, than any colt he had ever seen. Beginning with her earliest days in Kentucky, the book follows Ruffian at every stage of her career and through the agony of her final hours venturing behind the scenes of the racing world and exploring the politics and personalities that came together to shape this extraordinary filly's fate.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ruffian was arguably the best thoroughbred filly that ever raced: the horse won all five of the events it entered as a two-year-old in 1973, frequently setting or tying track records, and duplicated that string of successes the following year, taking the filly triple crown. On July 6, 1975, Ruffian was entered in a match race against Kentucky Derby winner Foolish Pleasure; partway through the race Ruffian broke a front leg and, despite an operation, had to be destroyed. Schwartz ( *Caught* ) on occasion annoyingly anthropomorphizes the horse, as when she describes Ruffian as "self-possessed, self-assured" and, on the day of the fatal race, "aware that something big was coming up." Despite this tendency, however, the book is a moving tribute to a great horse, and will

leave a lump in the throat of devotees of the sport of kings. Photos. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ruffian: the name stands out among a handful of great racehorses. Ruffian: the name conjures memories of a tough competitor, a tomboy. Ruffian: the name synonymous with the pinnacle of glory and the nadir of tragedy. Schwartz ( Caught , Ballantine, 1987) eloquently captures the spirit and style of this undefeated filly who beat all comers save death. In the 1975 match race against the colt Foolish Pleasure, viewed by a televised audience of 18 million, Ruffian broke down while leading and later had to be destroyed. Schwartz tells Ruffian's story from her birth, breaking, training, and racing, to the day of the ill-fated "battle of the sexes" through the eyes of her handlers, grooms, jockeys, and trainer. This is an exhilarating yet sad tale of the thrills and fears of horseracing. Highly recommended for most public libraries.- Susan Hamburger, Virginia State Lib. & Archives, RichmondCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book was incredibly well written. Was really impressed with the research that author undertook...Book was fantastic and really informative, going into the genetic predisposition of Ruffian's dam and sire also having precursors to fragile bones....knew what ending of book was going to be, but couldn't stop reading about this truly amazing filly! Just loved the heart and beauty of this amazing filly!

Rarely does an author manage to capture and define the rich and varied mix of people and circumstances that go into making a championship racehorse. And for good reason. It is a bit like cooking up a stew that has all sorts of spices thrown in. There are certain things you can control - the amount of detail to include, the descriptions of the people and races, the pace of the story - but in the end you're never quite sure what you'll have until you finish. On a larger scale, that is what happens in the breeding and racing of thoroughbreds, and lovers of the sport will be first to admit it. That is why Ruffian was such a breath taking surprise in her 10 unbeaten starts, and such a heart wrenching loss in her final defeat. It is also what makes Schwartz's account so moving.Schwartz has managed to tell Ruffian's story with wit and wisdom through the lives of the people who shepherded her through her career. Gradually, through their eyes you come to know a young horse that was both unusually poised and hauntingly determined. Every jockey who ever rode her was struck by the length of her stride, the ease of her acceleration and the futility of trying to hold her

back. Ruffian left little doubt in anyone's mind that she loved to run and had the raw physical strength and coordination to win. It was this combination that made her the darling of the horseracing world for one brief season and proved to be her undoing the next. For anyone who loves to watch thoroughbreds run, who is captivated by their beauty and spirit, this book is a must. Schwartz got the recipe right, and you will feel that you have been in the presence of a champion by the time you have finished.

It was great to learn about the horse racing process, from birth to the finish line. It was an epic story, but I think it was a bit short and could have provided greater detail of Ruffian's competition, furthering the story some and escalating Ruffian's profile even more,

I really loved this book. It was a concise history of this remarkable horse. The way the author told her story you really felt for Ruffian at the end when she had to be put down. It brought tears to my eyes. The only thing negative I have to say is I wish she had left out the profanity. They probably talk like that but I would rather have not had to read it.

This book is wonderful and an absolute for Ruffian fans and horse lovers alike! It reads like a biographical story book including every detail of Ruffian's life. From birth, to all her races and her untimely tragic demise. You get to know the elusive trainer Frank Whitey, and all the people in her life as if you met them personally. The races will lift you off your seat, and best of all you'll come to know the heart of Ruffian and love her. "Fire From The Start" is the best Ruffian book I have ever read and I have read quite a few. The photos included just bring you closer to her gentle soul and her fire.

I will never forget Ruffian's tragic story and Jane Schwartz's magnificent book which subtly presents the male-female context. Unable to locate my hardcover copy a couple of weeks ago, I wasted no time in buying a new paperback on . So glad I did.

This is one of the saddest stories I have ever read. But well-written. Sensitive. Thoughtful. It celebrates the life and death of one of the greatest horses ever to live.

The story of greatness, told in a moving way so that you feel you get to know Ruffian, her early riders and trainers, her exercise riders and jockeys, the trainer, and the stable routine. The races

are well told with excitement and intensity. I recommend this book for those who love horses and racing.

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