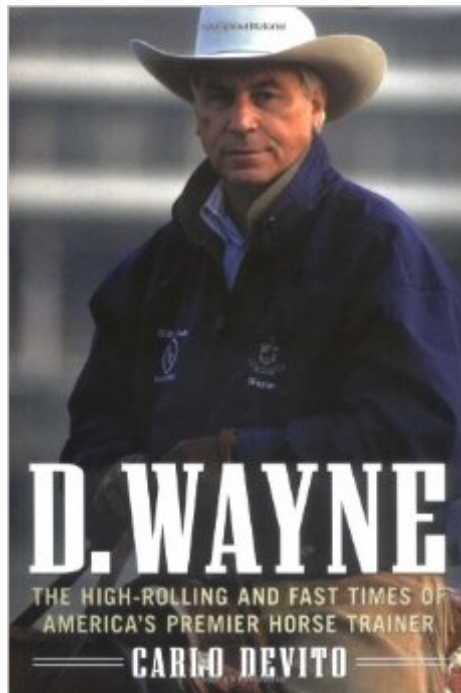


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# D. Wayne: The High-Rolling And Fast Times Of America's Premier Horse Trainer



## Synopsis

The first biography of the most successful and controversial horse trainer of all time. His methods have been ridiculed, his business tactics declared questionable, and his plans derided. Yet, not even the most stiff-necked Southern patrician can deny that D. Wayne Lukas is the most successful horse trainer in history. In 1999, Lukas became the first trainer to surpass \$200 million in earnings. He has won 12 Triple Crown events (including 6 in a row) 13 Breeders' Cups, 4 Kentucky Derbies, 5 Preaknesses, and 3 Belmonts. If horse racing is the sport of kings, then D. Wayne Lukas is surely its emperor. Now, in *D. Wayne*--the first book-length biography of D. Wayne Lukas--sportswriter Carlo DeVito tells the riveting life story of the man known throughout the sports world as the "Vince Lombardi of horse racing." He reveals the unorthodox business tactics D. Wayne used to wrest control of thoroughbred racing away from the handful of wealthy families who had held it for two centuries and to change the business forever. And with the help of candid interviews with Lukas rivals and fans, colleagues and competitors, and others, Carlo DeVito paints a fascinating portrait of the man who embodies Americans' most cherished images of themselves--self-made man, innovator, and cowboy. The first biography of the most successful--and controversial--horse trainer of all time D. Wayne Lukas has trained more winners, won more races, and amassed a greater fortune than any horse trainer in history. His unorthodox methods as well as his stormy personal life have also earned him a celebrity traditionally reserved for movie stars and big-league athletes. Now, in *D. Wayne*, journalist Carlo DeVito provides us with an intimate look into the life, times, and complex personality of one of the most colorful entrepreneurial mavericks of all time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

While a worthy topic, the incredible number of inaccuracies (e.g., in the same paragraph, both Jeff Fell and Jacinto Vasquez were listed as the rider of Pleasant Colony in the '81 KY Derby. Nevermind that the rider was actually Jorge Velasquez...) make the book a frustrating and difficult read. The author also repeatedly calls colts "she." Wayne Lukas is a very complex figure, both loved and scorned. His tale deserves to be told, but it should be done much better than this.

Never been a big fan of Lukas, but as a racing fan, it's about time somebody poked around to get this story. After reading this book, I still can't say I'm a big fan, but I definitely have a better understanding (and some begrudging respect!) for the guy. This book starts out with a fascinating behind the scenes look at Lukas' string of bad luck finding a horse to run in the Derby. He really is an evil genius! Lukas's early years breaking into thoroughbreds was pretty compelling stuff too. Horse fans should definitely get into it. Most of the interviews in here I'd never read before and I can't believe the author got Lukas to talk to him too. On the minus side, Muttering and Marfa are both referred to as fillies. Not so, costing this book my highest rating. However, the stuff on Charismatic and Chris Antley is exceptional and different from the usual racing journalism. A really good read.

When I started this book I was excited because there was a lot I did not know about Wayne Lukas. Then I hit page 87 where the author talks about the 1981 Kentucky Derby won by Pleasant Colony. First he says "At the head of the stretch, Pleasant Colony, ridden by Jeffrey Fell, made his move". On the same page he later says "Jacinto Vasquez had been aboard Pleasant Colony and was congratulated by his closest friend Angel Cordero". In reality Pleasant Colony was ridden to victory that day by Jorge Velasquez. On the next page the author talks about Muttering, a colt that Lukas won the Santa Anita Derby with and ran in the Derby in 1982. Yet on page 88 the author refers to Muttering three times with the word "she" and twice with the word "her". This book is unbelievable. First the author knows little about thoroughbred racing and secondly no knowledgeable person proof read this book before it was published. How do I know what is real in this book? I read these kinds of books to enhance my knowledge but with this one I can't trust what I read.

I just finished this book, with highlighter in hand. You see from page one where City Zip's name is

changed to Zip City, to page 62 where horses have good confirmation to page 80 where Codex is a beautiful chestnut colt to page 84 where Devito is concerned with the breeding fees for Genuine Risk to page 87 where a jockey stood up in the reins to page 108 where Marfa is now a filly running in the KY Derby in the wrong year to page 264 where Bob & Beverly Lewis own Real Quiet... Well, you get my drift. This book is so full of inaccuracies you begin to question the authenticity of everything. Hasn't McGraw Hill ever heard of fact checkers? Don't waste your money unless you want to use it as a trivia game - "How many errors can you find in 10 minutes?".

A story and lesson from one of the best that has ever done it. I liked this book because I learned a lot about the horse business. I enjoyed it as a fast read that did not lumber along but rather kept you interested in each story and chapter. I would recommend this as a good read for anyone interested in the business of horse racing. A lot of useful information is in between those book covers

Inaccuracies aside and there are a lot of them (Northern Dancer being referred to as Native Dancer, etc.) This book is poorly written, nonlinear storytelling being a major fault. The author jumps back in forth in time when discussing horses and races. There also is nothing really new revealed in this book as it's mostly a rehash of already well published facts. Finally it doesn't help that Wayne comes off as humorless and unsympathetic here as he does in real life.

Being a long time professional horseman, I am used to authors and writers getting mixed up about horsey facts and figures and not knowing the he's from the she's. I totally discounted the errors and did not let them detract from enjoying the story of D. Wayne. Chances are that had someone fact checked the book they too would know no more than the author! D. Wayne was super influential in horse racing and I thoroughly enjoyed his story. I met him once and can visualize him in every scenario of this book. My husband was a jockey for many years and he too thoroughly enjoyed the story.

As a racing fan, I've been waiting for this story to come out for years. I've never been a big fan of Lukas, but the chapters about his early years with thoroughbreds are fascinating. I still don't like the guy much, but I do have a new respect for him after reading this book. Also, the author begins the book with Lukas' string of bad luck finding a horse for the Derby a few years ago. There's some great behind the scenes stuff in this section that horse fans will really be into. A few little things bothered me, though. He refers to Muttering and Marfa as fillies. Not so. But otherwise, some great

stuff on Charismatic and Chris Antley. An excellent insiders book with some pretty revealing interviews. I give it 4 stars.

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