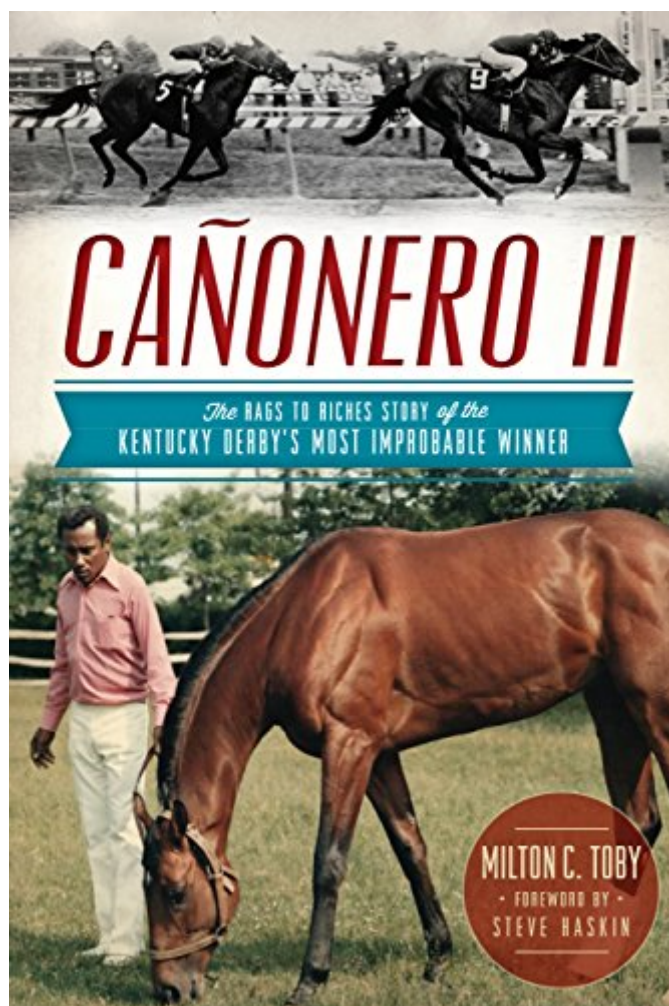


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# Cañonero II: The Rags To Riches Story Of The Kentucky Derby's Most Improbable Winner (Sports)



## Synopsis

In the months leading up to the 1971 Kentucky Derby, Canonero II was an unknown horse with a Venezuelan trainer who spoke only Spanish. The Derby "experts" laughed when an exercise boy rode the horse out on the track with no saddle or stirrups. But the laughter promptly ended when Canonero II charged to the front from twenty lengths back to win the Derby, followed by a victory at the Preakness Stakes in track record time. In recounting Canonero II's quest to become the first Triple Crown winner since Citation, award-winning turf historian Milt Toby tells the compelling story of how one man's wildly improbable dream became the dream of a nation and how a bargain-basement yearling born with a crooked front leg became the "people's horse."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There is not much to find about this horse. That is a shame. I saw him run on tv at the time and though he was very plain he had charisma .I recommend this book in that it captures the kind of horse he was and the charisma he had. Not much to look at but when you see his old races you

really do see some magic. I understand they are making a movie about him. That would be good just so the people of today could get to know him. He was a brave horse and till recently seems to have been lost in time.

This is a great book - well researched, superbly written, entertaining, and fair to all involved - people and horses alike. Like the classical underdog story it is, Cañonero's unlikely odyssey captured popular imagination and became a symbol of the little guy who beats the biggest odds. Horse lovers everywhere are lucky that such a great story is finally told as it always deserved.

A great book about a great racehorse. A very interesting story about very interesting people and a very good racehorse. The Canonero 11 story certainly follows a very different path to that of most famous Thoroughbred stallions. Highly recommended.

The first KY Derby I attended was when Cannonero II won. Attended rest of Triple Crown races. The true story of an unknown underdog who excited the racing world and the Spanish community.

Excellent written story of champion that started me on life long love of racing

Great

Good book

What can I say other than this was one of the most intense books I have read in a long time. Page-after-page the story of Cañonero II unfolds in ways a racing aficionado could not even imagined. Milton frames the times in which Cañonero ran while taking the reader on a journey of monumental ups-and-downs that even Shakespeare would marvel at. We rejoice at Cañonero's wins and ache at the circumstances that surrounded him along the way. After reading Milton's book I decided to look at the scrapbook I kept on Cañonero. The book and the clippings blend into one amazing story that I could not have known, nor anyone else at that time, of what was really happening. Amazing! Associated Press Special Correspondent Will Grimsley wrote on Tuesday, June 8, 1971, "The crooked-legged bay from Venezuela may have failed in his bid for the all but impossible dream of horse racing's Triple Crown but who of us can say he did not attain his destiny? Feel-good stories of racing

thoroughbreds abound but this does not fall into that category. I have read many books on racing legends but this book tugged at my heart like no others. If only we could return to 1971 . . . well-done Milton. I can only imagine how much more of Cañonero's story you could have told.

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