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*Elizabeth Letts*

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#45878 in Books Ballantine Books 2017-05-23 2017-05-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.00 x 5.201, 1.00 #File Name: 034554482X400 pagesThe Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions... | File size: 35.Mb

**Elizabeth Letts : The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Perfect Horse: The Daring U.S. Mission to Rescue the Priceless Stallions Kidnapped by the Nazis:

73 of 74 people found the following review helpful. Extremely well researched, interestingBy H. SapiensI really struggled with this book on two fronts 1) Incredible story / 2) bit disjointed writing at times. Overall, it is a fascinating story spanning decades with an impressive amount of research backing it up. The author does a good job of building up the backstory and approaches the story as a historical account, with included photographs, which I appreciate. In some places, she breaks from the story and gives long historical accounts splashed in with some storytelling that seems flat. These instances for me were difficult to read. I keep flashing to the Cruelst Miles where Salisbury stays in the tale while remaining historically accurate. For the Perfect Horse, I feel like Letts focuses on being historically accurate and then weaving a tale around it. However I think historical nonfiction is one of the most difficult types of writing. I felt had this book been a bit more focused it would have been better, but it was still very interesting if not gripping.51 of 51 people found the following review helpful. Be advised! This book is an incredible but gut-wrenching story of the horrors of WWIIBy Almost LisaIf you liked Unbroken and War Horse, you will like this book. The writing and research in this book are excellent. I can't imagine how the author found all the details she did about the characters and horses, who are long gone. The facts read like a story and the book is both interesting and extremely moving. However, keep in mind that it is a WWII book and some of the scenes are perfectly horrible. I would not recommend this book for kids or sensitive animal lovers. The descriptions of the horses dying of slaughter, exhaustion, injury, and starvation are gut-wrenching and I wasn't even sure I could continue reading it at some points. The author follows the characters and the horses throughout their lives and at the end, I cried all the way through the last few chapters. That said, the whole tale is amazing and a testament to the horrors of war and the incredible courage and perseverance of these dedicated horse lovers. Have Kleenex nearby!73 of 75 people found the following review helpful. Loving this storyBy Doug HibbardI'll admit it: I don't know if I'm 5-star rating this because the book is great or because the overall story is fascinating and engaging.But it gets the five anyway. First of all, the story is well-told. Letts relies on the reader's general knowledge of World War 2 without expecting an in-depth understanding.Second, she engages with the various individuals--after all, history is about what groups of individuals do, but we are better able to identify with one

or two people. Third, Letts works non-horse people through some of the horsemanship discussions without being condescending. After all, some of us just know that you put on the saddle and ride--but if you don't know "dressage" from "dressing," this book will guide you through what you need. All in all, this has been read by myself and 2 of my teenagers. We all loved it, for the history, the horses, and the heroism.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER **bull;** From the author of *The Eighty-Dollar Champion*, the remarkable story of the heroic rescue of priceless horses in the closing days of World War II In the chaotic last days of the war, a small troop of battle-weary American soldiers captures a German spy and makes an astonishing find--his briefcase is empty but for photos of beautiful white horses that have been stolen and kept on a secret farm behind enemy lines. Hitler has stockpiled the world's finest purebreds in order to breed the perfect military machine--an equine master race. But with the starving Russian army closing in, the animals are in imminent danger of being slaughtered for food. With only hours to spare, one of the U.S. Army's last great cavalrymen, Colonel Hank Reed, makes a bold decision--with General George Patton's blessing--to mount a covert rescue operation. Racing against time, Reed's small but determined force of soldiers, aided by several turncoat Germans, steals across enemy lines in a last-ditch effort to save the horses. Pulling together this multistranded story, Elizabeth Letts introduces us to an unforgettable cast of characters: Alois Podhajsky, director of the famed Spanish Riding School of Vienna, a former Olympic medalist who is forced to flee the bomb-ravaged Austrian capital with his entire stable in tow; Gustav Rau, Hitler's imperious chief of horse breeding, a proponent of eugenics who dreams of genetically engineering the perfect warhorse for Germany; and Tom Stewart, a senator's son who makes a daring moonlight ride on a white stallion to secure the farm's surrender. A compelling account for animal lovers and World War II buffs alike, *The Perfect Horse* tells for the first time the full story of these events. Elizabeth Letts's exhilarating tale of behind-enemy-lines adventure, courage, and sacrifice brings to life one of the most inspiring chapters in the annals of human valor. **Praise for *The Perfect Horse*** **ldquo;**Winningly readable . . . Letts captures both the personalities and the stakes of this daring mission with such a sharp ear for drama that the whole second half of the book reads like a WWII thriller dreamed up by Alan Furst or Len Deighton. . . . The right director could make a Hollywood classic out of this fairy tale.**rdquo;****mdash;***The Christian Science Monitor* **ldquo;**Letts, a lifelong equestrienne, eloquently brings together the many facets of this unlikely, poignant story underscoring the love and respect of man for horses.**rdquo;****mdash;***Kirkus Reviews***ldquo;***The Perfect Horse* raises the narrative bar. Applying her skills as a researcher, storyteller and horsewoman, Letts provides context that makes this account spellbinding.**rdquo;****mdash;***Culture***ldquo;***The Perfect Horse* is an enthralling and moving story that I could not put down. This is a riveting and unique perspective on World War II.**rdquo;****mdash;**Molly Guptill Manning, author of *When Books Went to War***ldquo;**Passionately told and dazzling in scope, *The Perfect Horse* charges headlong into an unforgettable tale of World War II, when good men were given a final mission--to save beloved horses--at an hour when no one wanted to die. In Elizabeth Letts, the saga of World War II's white stallions has found its perfect guardian.**rdquo;****mdash;**Adam Makos, author of *A Higher Call***ldquo;**Elizabeth Letts's beautiful prose, woven together with meticulous research, takes you for a ride that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the end.**rdquo;****mdash;**Robin Hutton, author of *Sgt. Reckless*

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