

Teaching Narcissus to Swim (Paperback)



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(Pete Bosco)

TEACHING NARCISSUS TO SWIM (PAPERBACK)

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Outskirts Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 213 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Teaching Narcissus to Swim will surprise you with its clear, innocent voice and its artistic beauty. There's nothing Greek about this book except the title reference. On the contrary, it is quintessentially American. Half Indian, half cowboy, protagonist Buck McKuen is a naive runaway boy the morning he arrives in rough-and-tumble Ruidoso, New Mexico. He has witnessed his father's untimely death, clashed with his brother and left his family's ranch in the Osage Hills of Oklahoma to make his own way in a world of unexpected complexity. By summer's end he has experienced love, loss and all the thrills which accompany one of the world's most dangerous occupations—that of a jockey. Blessed with talent and high spirit, Buck finds himself in a world of temptation, prejudice and danger. Surrounded by men twice his age who care little if he survives or dies in a stampede of hooves and vices, Buck struggles to define himself as he experiences unrequited love, shame, comedy, tragedy and exhilarating glory. His lone ally in this fast-paced journey is Billy Powers, the charismatic, flamboyant narcissist whose friendship is both a blessing and a curse. Buck's enemies include the vicious Wayne Carano, a skilled and ruthless jockey and Jack Harnes, a wealthy, bigoted Texan and the father of Buck's first real girlfriend. These characters, along with others in the book, are portrayed with unflinching honesty by a masterful storyteller. Teaching Narcissus to Swim brings together scoundrels, heroes and horses in a background of intrigue and suspense. Initial reactions to the book range from wild acclaim from champion jockeys and sports commentators to complaints that it constitutes...

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