

Teaching Narcissus to Swim (Paperback)



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Reviews

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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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