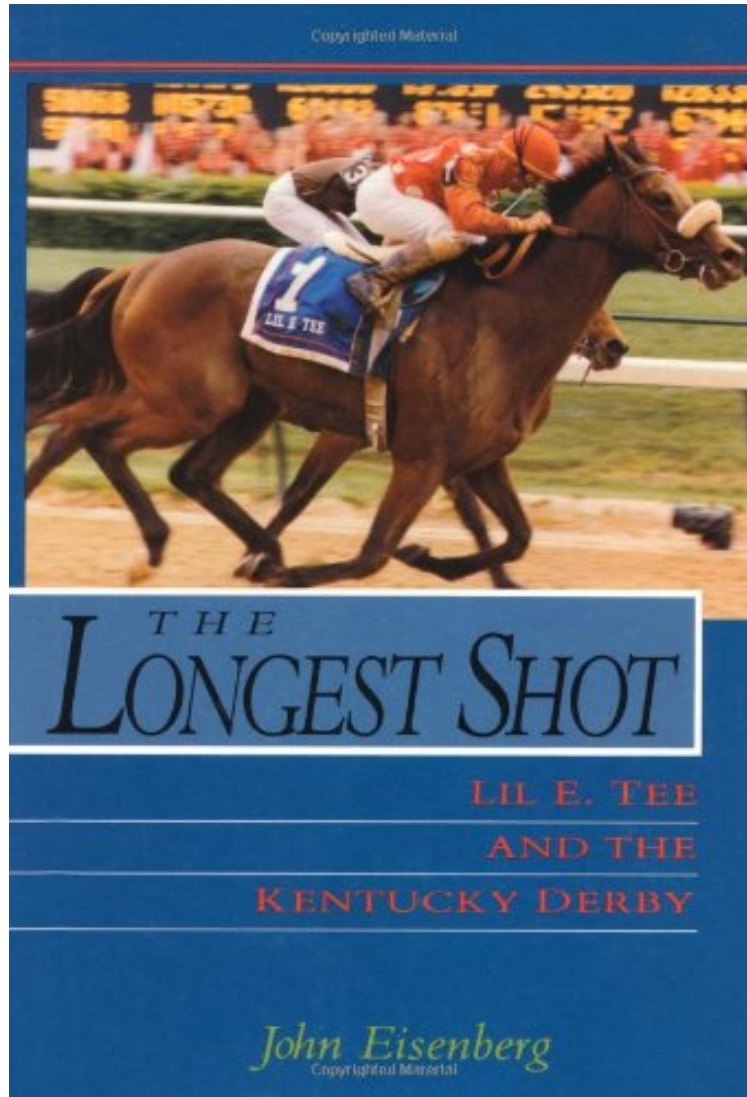


[DOWNLOAD] The Longest Shot: Lil E. Tee and the Kentucky Derby

## The Longest Shot: Lil E. Tee and the Kentucky Derby

*John Eisenberg*

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**John Eisenberg : The Longest Shot: Lil E. Tee and the Kentucky Derby** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Longest Shot: Lil E. Tee and the Kentucky Derby:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Sure Thing!By Jim AltfeldThere is no doubt that John Eisenberg can not only write, but he also has a tremendous understanding of horse racing. The book provides insight, not only to an exceptional horse, but to racing in general. It's still amazing that with all the great horses Pat Day rode, it was Lil E. Tee, a horse with an apparent immune deficiency, who gave him his first Derby. If you enjoy the giddyups, this is one of the better books to read.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This May Be One of the Best Horse Racing Books Ever!By K. PalmerIn May 1992, I sat down to watch the Kentucky Derby expecting to watch the

coronation of a horse named Arazi as the best horse since Secretariat. However, a horse I had never heard of before, Lil E. Tee, pulled a shocking upset of Arazi and won the Run for the Roses. After Lil E. Tee failed to win the Preakness Stakes, he was forgotten in my mind. That was until I picked up this book. John Eisenberg's story of Lil E. Tee is one of the most fascinating horse racing stories you will ever read. A horse with suspect breeding, chronic colic problems, bad legs and who changed hands several times (including once for a mere \$3,000) went on to win the Kentucky Derby over several royally-bred colts plus the so-called unbeatable Arazi. He also gave an accomplished jockey, Pat Day, his first (and so far, only) Kentucky Derby winner, when Day himself thought Lil E. Tee was one of his worst Derby mounts ever. John Eisenberg has provided a well-researched tale of the life of Lil E. Tee prior to the Derby. Interviews have been conducted with pretty much all of the principals of his story and those tales have been woven into an entertaining story that reads almost like fiction. "The Longest Shot" isn't quite the masterpiece of Laura Hillenbrand's "Seabiscuit", but I think that this book might have great potential as a movie, because it really is a true equine "Rocky"! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Bringing an obscure horse into the light... By Orionfarms I purchased this book on a whim, let it sit around for a while, and randomly picked it up on my way to bed, thinking that I would read a little bit and then quickly fall asleep. Little did I know that I would be up all night, my usually short attention span completely riveted, as time flew by. This book provides a wealth of information about Lil E Tee's origin, racing career, and the people around him. Even though I thoroughly enjoyed this book, the author had a tendency to introduce characters out of sequence. For example, sometimes background information would be provided on a person who was not involved in the progression of the story until several chapters later. By breaking up the sequence in this manner, the flow of the story was impaired and choppy. The author's sentence structure also tended to be loose and brief. Also this oversimplification made reading the story easier and faster, I did feel like the book was written for a younger audience. Again, the subject matter was fascinating and the author obviously did a lot of work to uncover a wealth of information on the life of a relatively obscure racehorse. If you're interested in racing trivia, or are simply looking for a captivating sports story, then this book should cater to you!

On the first Saturday in May every year in Louisville, Kentucky, shortly after 5:30 PM, a new horse attains racing immortality. The Kentucky Derby is like no other race, and its winners are the finest horses in the world. Covered in rich red roses, surrounded by flashing cameras and admiring crowds, these instant celebrities bear stellar names like Citation, Spectacular Bid, and Seattle Slew. They're worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. From the time of their pampered births and training on fabulous Thoroughbred farms in Kentucky, Florida, and California, they are destined for the Derby. But in 1992, a funny thing happened on the way to the roses. The rattling roar of 130,000 voices tailed off into a high, hollow shriek as the horses crossed the finish line. Lil E. Tee? ABC broadcasters knew nothing about him, but they weren't alone. Who knew about Lil E. Tee? A blacksmith in Ocala, Florida, a veterinary surgeon in Ringoes, New Jersey, a trainer at Calder Race Course, and a few other people used to dealing with average horses knew this horse - and realized what a long shot Lil E. Tee really was. On an obscure Pennsylvania farm that raised mostly trotting horses, a colt with a dime-store pedigree was born in 1989. His odd gait and tendency to bellow for his mother earned him the nickname E.T. Suffering from an immune deficiency and a bad case of colic, he survived surgery that usually ends a horse's racing career. Bloodstock agents dismissed him because of his mediocre breeding, and once he was sold for only \$3,000. He'd live in five barns in seven states by the time he turned two. Somehow, this horse became one of the biggest underdogs ever to appear on the American sporting landscape. Lil E. Tee overcame his bleak beginnings to reach the respected hands of trainer Lynn Whiting, jockey Pat Day, and owner Cal Partee. After winning the Jim Beam stakes and finishing second in the Arkansas Derby, Lil E. Tee arrived at Churchill Downs to face a field of seventeen horses, including the highly acclaimed favorite, Arazi, a horse many people forecast to become the next Secretariat. A 17-to-1 longshot, Lil E. Tee won the Derby with a classic rally down the home stretch, and finally Pat Day had jockeyed a horse to Derby victory.

From Library Journal This is an inspiring account of the victory of Lil E. Tee in the 1992 Kentucky Derby. Born with an undistinguished pedigree in a minor breeding state (Pennsylvania), surviving prolonged colic and enduring shin problems, this virtually unwanted horse triumphed over much more heralded and significantly more expensive competition. Eisenberg, a Baltimore Sun sportswriter and seasoned racing commentator, interviewed scores of people to piece together a smooth composite of this unlikely odyssey. In so doing, he creates good character profiles of many who were a part of Lil E. Tee's drama, especially the owner, trainer, and jockey at the time of the Derby. The book provides a fair glimpse into the process of a thoroughbred's development and a solid appreciation of the chancy and narrow avenue to the Kentucky Derby. Well written, enjoyable to read, and guaranteed to move many readers, this is heartily recommended. ?David Van de Streek, Pennsylvania State Univ. Libs., York Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist When Lil E. Tee won the Kentucky Derby at odds of 17<sup>-1</sup>, it was reported as an upset. In fact, it was more akin to a miracle. At the time, however, nobody could fully comprehend just how unlikely it was that this ill-bred colt--shuffled from owner to owner, his early history lost--had won America's greatest horse race. Those who posed with him in the winner's circle at Churchill Downs had no idea that he had nearly died before

undergoing stomach surgery as a weanling, that he had been sold for a mere \$2,000 as a yearling, or that he had been turned down as unsalable by an auction company as a two-year-old. Retracing the colt's steps on his circuitous path to glory, Eisenberg pieces together one of the most remarkable stories in the history of a sport rife with the stuff of fairy tales. Told with a firm understanding of the subject and a deft narrative touch, it makes fascinating reading. Dennis Dodge "A really well-written, unpretentious, and more remarkable rags-to-riches story." -- Racing Post "A really well-written, unpretentious, and more remarkable rags-to-riches story." -- Racing Post