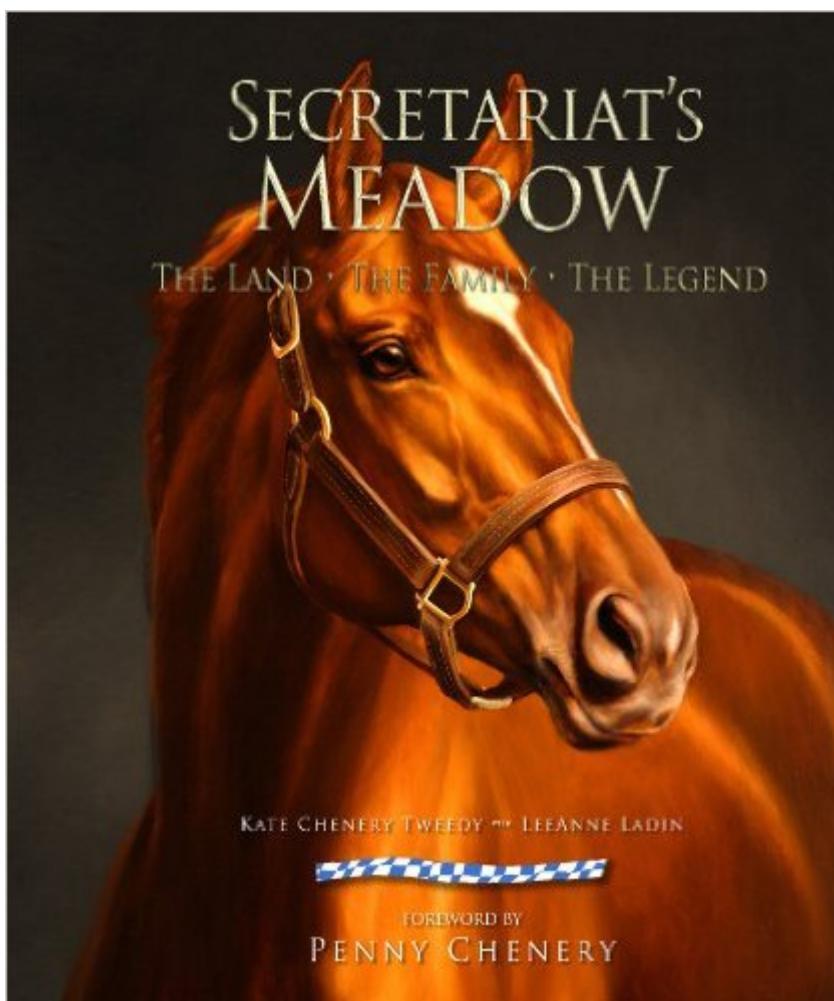


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# Secretariat's Meadow



## **Synopsis**

" On March 30, 1970, Secretariat drew his first breath in a little white foaling shed on a historic farm called The Meadow in Caroline County, Virginia. Three years later he would leave the nation breathless as he captured the Triple Crown, shattering records and rivals alike. At The Meadow, America's Super Horse learned to gallop across its rolling fields and its loamy track. There, Secretariat first felt the calming hand of a groom, the taste of a bit in his mouth and the weight of a rider on his back. At The Meadow, the foundation was laid for a legend. Though much has been written about his spectacular racing career, the complete story of Secretariat's birthplace and the Chenery family who raised and raced him has never been told...until now. And a Chenery granddaughter is telling it. Secretariat's Meadow The Land, The Family, The Legend reveals an intimate picture of this storied place from the viewpoint of Kate Chenery Tweedy, daughter of Penny Chenery (Tweedy) and granddaughter of Meadow Stable's founder Christopher T. Chenery. Co-authored with Leeanne Meadows Ladin, the book tells not only Secretariat's story, but the story of an enduring piece of land where an empire built on broodmares eventually produced an immortal son. "

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This wonderful book brings to life all the people who made The Meadow Stable such a prominent figure in Thoroughbred racing, from Christopher T. Chenery's dream to his grand-daughter's, Penny Chenery's dream horse, Secretariat. This is no one note history of an East Coast Horse Country

family, so much more than a simple regional history. It is a tribute to the land, the beginning of a breeding/racing empire and the extended family who made it all possible, a rare trifecta of fate. Such a book could only be accomplished by an author who has intimate knowledge of such details, Penny Cherney's daughter, Kate Cherney Tweedy, is one of the authors. She is joined by Leanne Meadows and noted Virginia photographer, Wayne Dementi. The story, photographs and acknowledgement of so many people who make up a successful racing operation endears these three to my heart. A horse-crazed teenage girl, I was glued to Derby, Preakness and the Belmont Stakes every year, hoping to witness such a winner. I can remember in vivid detail Secretariat's ascent to Triple Crown glory and into my heart where he will live forever. Other college girls had their rooms plastered with posters of the Pop stars, mine were newspaper clippings and photos of the greatest thoroughbred of my generation. His effect has not lessened some 30 years later, tears still run down my face whenever I see a film clip of "Big Red" on the racetrack. I know I will never see anything like Secretariat again in my life. This Autumn there is to be a film released about Secretariat starring Diane Lane as Penny Cherney, the "First Lady of Racing". Three horses are making up his role, I am surprised it did not entail more.

**The Hearts of the Meadow** This book seems to pick up where Raymond Wolfe's 2001 edition of 'Secretariat' left off. In the footnote at the end of that work Raymond updated the readers on the condition of the Meadow in 1998, with Ross Sternheimer's purchase of the estate. 'Secretariat's Meadow' begins there and takes us back into the history of the land and its people, the players and circumstances that generated the spirit of determination that would eventually give to America if not its greatest then certainly one of its most gifted Thoroughbred performers. A brief synopsis of this piece might look like this: with beginnings dating back to the early 1700s, the land rooted in plantations and slave ownership, we are led through ante and postbellum periods with regard to specific families, characters, social conditions, and geography. At the core is one clan, the Morris family, headed by a physician who acquired the acreage from wealthy landowners. The Meadow remained with the family for more than a century when in the clutches of the devastation and poverty the civil war left behind, the land was sold. The war filtered out the strong from the weak, and James Chennery and wife Ida, relations who resided at the Meadow for a time, were determined to survive the aftermath. Moving to Richmond and then to Ashland, their future lied with the education of their children. All their sons and daughters succeeded in their own respective professions, journalism, medicine, and engineering, the latter ascribed to the ambitious and creative Christopher who would eventually return the Meadow to the family. Developing a passion for horses

and horse racing in particular, young Christopher set out to accomplish his most pressing need, to secure his finances.

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