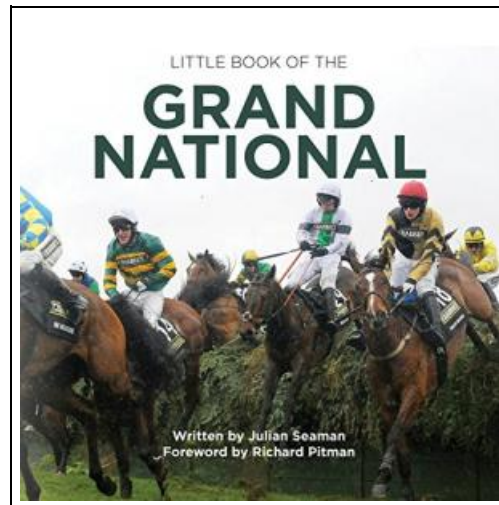


The Grand National (Hardback)



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G2 Entertainment Ltd, United Kingdom, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Grand National is the most famous horse race in the world. Officially first run in 1839 it is now watched in 140 countries on television with viewing figures of more than 500 million. Run in early April at Aintree, Liverpool, this spectacular steeplechase over 30 fearsome fences and four and a half miles has had a history filled with drama. In the first running a Captain Becher fell into the ditch which now bears his name. In 1956 the Queen Mother's Devon Loch looked set to win, ridden by future thriller writer Dick Francis in the saddle, only to belly flop, legs akimbo, yards from the line. In 1967 there was a pile-up at the fence before the Canal Turn allowing 100/1 outsider Foinavon to come through to win. In the 1970s, when the future of the race looked seriously in doubt, the three amazing wins by Red Rum re-engaged the public, and who can forget the emotional victory of cancer survivor Bob Champion and Aldaniti in 1981? The National has thrown up some great characters such as the Spanish nobleman the Duke of Albuquerque and English racing journalist Lord Oaksey. In the history of the race, the largest number of runners was an enormous field of 66 and the fewest to finish was just two. In 1993 a starting fiasco resulted in the race being declared null and void and, only four years later, it was postponed by a bomb scare and was run on the following Monday. Little Book of the Grand National tells all these tales, illustrated with great contemporary pictures and photographs.

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