

THE VO ROGUE SHOW

Lynlea Small

This book is a touching, sensitive and beautifully written account of one of the greatest racehorses of his generation.

— John Tapp OAM
Legendary race-caller and broadcaster

The amazing story of how a small, gelded weanling of poor breeding initially called 'Erky' and purchased with the proceeds of a punt, blossomed into a superstar racehorse who took on the best and most valuable horses in the country and made them look second rate. This is a love story between the horse and his senior part-owner Jeff Perry.

Vo Rogue is without doubt one of Australia's most beloved racehorses. In the late 1980s and early 1990s Vo Rogue was the people's champion and star of The Vo Rogue Show that played to packed grandstands on Australia's best racecourses for five years. Trainer, Vic Rail, jockey, Cyril Small and owners Jeff Perry and Garry Roberts were the support acts.

It is over 30 years since Vo Rogue, or Vo to his family, friends and fans, last raced and a decade has passed since he crossed over the rainbow bridge. The horse is loved as much today as he ever was. His racecourse feats are replayed over and over again on Racing.com much to the delight of his legion of fans. Each year in March he is remembered for his sterling wins in two Australian Cups and his courageous seconds in the same race. Doing a Vo Rogue has become a catchcry for race callers across Australia when horses go out with big leads in races.

But Vo was more than just a racehorse, he was family to those that cared for him and loved him.

For some, the story continued well after Vo retired and so this book moves beyond Vo's racing days and follows the lives of his connections and their trials and tribulations as they navigated life without their superstar galloper by their sides. And finally, this book is not just a story about horse racing, it is a story about, life, death, resilience, the undying love for a horse, and the story a friendship between two men that has lasted for close to 40 years.



The Author

Lynlea Small has been privileged to spend the majority of her life immersed in the thoroughbred racing industry as the wife of Cyril Small, a gentle man, a brilliant horseman, and the jockey of former champion racehorse Vo Rogue. Along the way she has gained a deep knowledge of racing, while she learned to train racehorses in her own right, support her two sons Daniel and Braidon to forge a career in jumps racing, and guide her daughter Jessica as she embarked on her career along a different pathway.

For the past twenty years, Lynlea has been equally immersed in the tertiary education sector where she works and has excelled academically with the highlight being awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

Lynlea had a front row seat throughout Vo Rogue's career. Her in depth knowledge coupled with her strong research skills and well-honed writing ability, have resulted in a book that perfectly captures the story of a cult hero who captivated a nation with feats that catapulted him and his connections into Australian racing folklore.

For Lynlea, this book represents her contribution to the history of horse racing in Australia.

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