

HICCUP

The great race



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Illustrated by Fernanda Córdova Silva

Review

Hiccup is the name of a little foal, descendant of the largest racehorse dynasty ever known. As expected, his parents, *Kinky and Thunderbolt*, had deposited in his son, the continuation of his successful tradition. But apparently, Hiccup didn't have the same dream, causing a family commotion and the beginning of a great adventure. Our protagonist goes out in search of his dream, meeting Whiskers, the mice, the horses and the children of a large house, which will change everyone's life for ever. Parents often have dreams for our children. Since we know that they come to this world, we begin to think about their future and we can make the mistake of projecting our frustrations, poverties, traditions and dreams on them. "I started writing this book in 2013, when I knew that my son was coming to this world. Like many parents, my mind began traveling in time, thinking the best for him. That's when I decided to write this book, when I realized that my son's destiny would be the result of his story, not mine, and that my duty would only be to be there for him. Our children have that: they are the cause of our greatest joys, but also of our worst fears. This book is dedicated to him, to my Hiccup, the inspirer of this story."

HICCUP

THE BIG RACE

Claudio Gregoire Pino

Iglú editores

Chapter 1: The Hippodrome.

A beautiful day was the perfect setting for Thunderbolt's new feat. If he wins today's race, he will become the most successful horse in history.

Thunderbolt has won almost a thousand races. 999, to be exact. And it is precisely today, that he can win the platinum crown, a trophy which has never been given before and the obsession of Mr. Gambling, owner of Greenwish, the champion's farm.

The horses came to the track mounted by their riders, take their positions to wait for the starting signal and... set off!

Thunderbolt, as always, takes the lead. Everyone cheer and acclaim, and from the exclusive halls of the racecourse, Mr. Gambling with his assistant Mr. Slim, watch the race with their binoculars.

Through the Horsehouse loudspeakers, the announcer recounts to the crowd what happens on the racetrack.

- It's amazing what's Thunderbolt doing!
- Who would say that this horse could one day surpass his ancestors and win what no horse has ever won before: His thousand race!
- It's true, ladies and gentlemen, we are in front of a true champion, who, entering in the home stretch, already has enough advantage over his competitors to doubt for a minute who will be the new champion of this season.
- And it is Thunderbolt's record, a thousand races winner, yes ladies and gentlemen, a thousand races winner! Wow... what a horse!

"Thunderbolt, our new world record", "Thunderbolt is the fastest horse in history", "A thousand races for Thunderbolt and the world surrenders at his feet".

Along with the headlines, the pictures of the horse with his rider and his owner. All under the Greenwish shield, which now becomes the most successful farm of the moment.

At dusk, after the festivities, Mr. Gambling and Mr. Slim are outside the stable congratulating the new champion.

- Thunderbolt, you're the best. Neither your father, nor your grandfather, nor your grandfather's father, have made Greenwish the best farm in the world; neither my father, grandfather and my grandfather's father, transformed me in the richest and most powerful man in town. And it's all because of you.

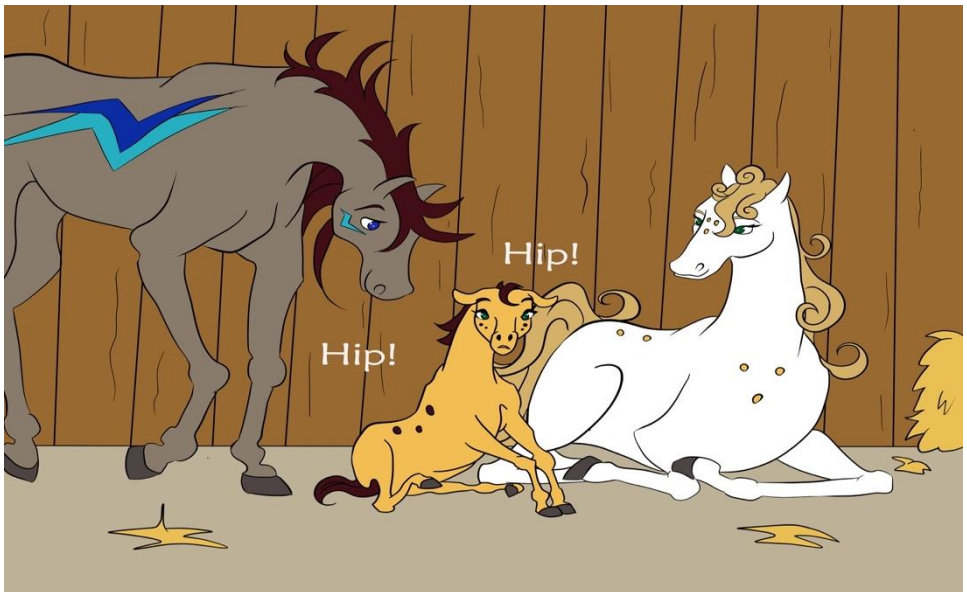
- But this is not all, my dear steed. To complete my happiness, today your son will be born and he will be, without a doubt, much better than you. So my future is unsurpassed successful.

- Enough talk, Mr. Slim. Take Thunderbolt to the stable. The heir is almost going to be born.

Mr. Slim didn't honor his surname. Conversely, he was quite fat and small and was always walking around with his cheese sandwich and his soda, which made him quite funny next to a horse as big and slender as Thunderbolt.

Moments later, Thunderbolt arrives at the stable, where a group of veterinarians were assisting Kinky, the future champion's mother.

- Come on Kinky, there is less missing!
- Bid a little more! We will help you!
- I am seeing him! Said one of the vets.
- Come on, come on, he's already come out!



From afar, Thunderbolt was watching his son's birth and shyly approached, just as the vets left for a moment to leave the new family alone.

- How are you Kinky? Asked the moved father.
- Very good my love, Kinky replied.
- I introduce to you our son, said in love.

Thunderbolt's face softened when he saw his son, who had barely been born and didn't control her movements yet.

- He's beautiful, said Thunderbolt. How will we call him? Asked the excited father.

And while his parents watched him proud, the new member of the family, still without a name or much strength, tried to stand on his four legs, when they began to tremble, falling on his buttocks.

Kinky and Thunderbolt laughed, and the new foal looked at them amused, when suddenly ... Hip! Hip! Hip!

- Come here my son, said Kinky tenderly. You must be hungry. Come here, I'll give you milk. Thus, mother and son came closer, when Kinky asked Thunderbolt: what do you think if we call him Hiccup?
- But what a strange name, answered the horse.
- Please, said Kinky with a sweet voice. Look at him, even drinking his milk he can't stop hiccoughing. This must be a sign, she added.
- Okay, said the proud horse, and looking kindly at his son said:

You will be called Hiccup, Kinky and Thunderbolt's son, first-born of the dynasty where your father, his father, the father of his father and all his ancestors have been champions, and that's what we hope you will be.

Chapter 2: The First Day.

- Where do I have to go Mom? Asked Hiccup.
- It's your first day at school, replied her mother tenderly. I've explained you many times, Hiccup. All foals who live in Greenwish must go to school, where they will be taught, learn and train to be racehorses. And I hope champions, just like your father.
- But I want to stay with you. I have a nice time here, answered Hiccup.
- None of that, you must go to school, like everyone else. You'll have fun and make friends there, replied his mother.

At that moment Mr. Gambling arrived to take Hiccup to his first day of school.

All the foals were on the track with their trainer, who instructed them: Let's go training! future champions. You must be the best!

On the racetrack, everyone had to run to be a great champion one day. But Hiccup wasn't happy. Running all day and competing with other horses didn't motivated him.

After some weeks, one day at the morning, you could hear at Hiccup's house...

- I don't want, I don't want, and I don't want to! I don't want to go to school anymore, Hiccup yelled at his parents.
- But what do you say, my son. I've already told you, many times, that all the foals that live here have to go to school.
- But I don't want to do that! Hiccup replied angrily.
- Don't say that my love, his mother replied sweetly.
- I don't want to go Mom, please don't send me to school, said Hiccup very sad.
- Nothing like that! The father shouted very angry. You are a racehorse, as I am and my father, and my father's father. So nothing of nonsenses and you go to school, like everyone, he ordered.

Hiccup left very angry, and when he was on the track, he started planning his big escape.

Once he made sure that no one was seeing him, he ran as fast as he could, jumping the railings of the racecourse, losing himself through the city.

As he ran, he thought:

- My parents are wrong: I don't want to be a racehorse. I want to know the world and live many adventures. I don't want to compete to be the best. I just want to meet new friends and have fun.

While he thought, he kept running, until the racetrack was left behind and once he was sure that no one was following him, he began to walk through the city, a city that he did not know and that was the beginning of his great adventure.

