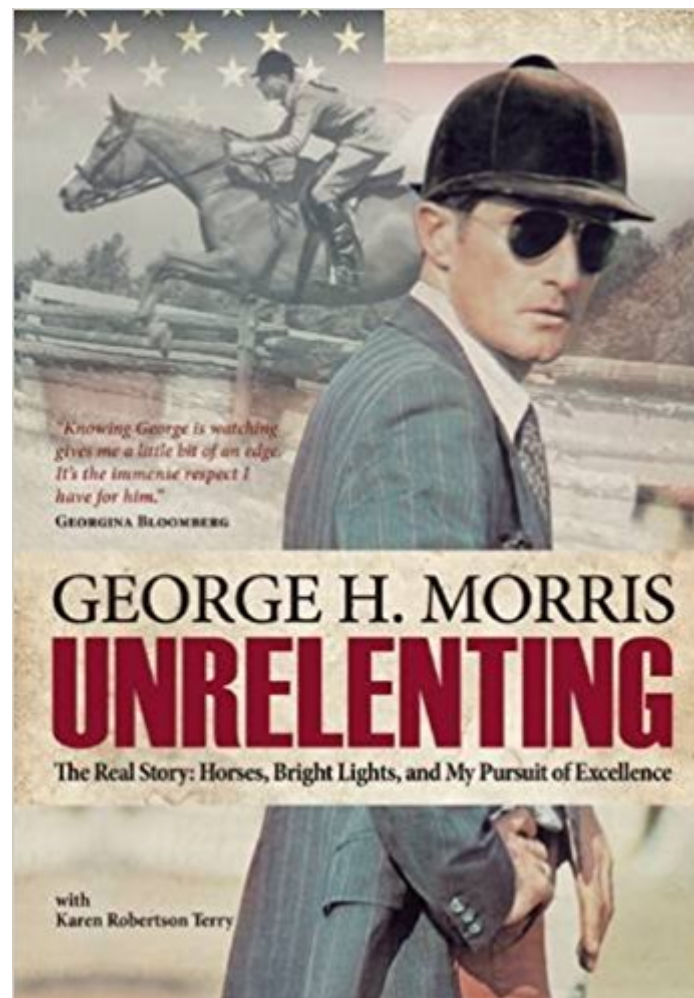




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# Unrelenting: The Real Story: Horses, Bright Lights And My Pursuit Of Excellence



## Synopsis

If there is one name in the American equestrian story that everyone knows, it is George Morris. A horse lover, rider, carouser, competitor, taskmaster, dreamer, teacher, and visionary, George Morris has been ever-present on the rarified stage of the international riding elite for most of the 70 years he's been in the saddle. He has represented our country as an athlete and a coach and, at one time or another, instructed many of our nation's best horsemen and women. His carefully chosen, perfectly enunciated words are notoriously powerful. They can raise you up or cut you to the quick. His approval can be a rainmaker; his derision can end a career. But as much as people know and respect (or, perhaps, fear) the public face of George Morris, he has lived, in other ways, a remarkably private life, keeping his own personal struggles with insecurity, with ambition, and with love behind closed doors. It is only now that he has chosen, in his own words, to share the totality of his life; the very public and the incredibly private; with the world. This engrossing autobiography, the real story of the godlike George Morris, beautifully demonstrates his ultimate humanity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm an avid reader, and my mom always sends me books, so when I have time, I always have a good book to read (yes, a book!). I have this romantic notion of carrying a paperback and reading it, so I haven't gone electronic. I'm currently reading George Morris's Unrelenting. It's amazing. Enlightening and inspiring. And insight into

[Morris's] human failings; his struggles and doubts and worries; made for a much more complete picture of him than has ever been painted. An unprecedented look into the life of a legend; The Chronicle of the Horse; Raw and real; well-written, thoughtful, and very thorough; So what are you waiting for? The Legal Equestrian; Unrelenting lets you in on the beauty behind the beast; Equine Journal; there's a description in the book that says the god like George Morris, and in the horse world he is God like and it's also a parody of himself but he's also still doing it, it's not like we're talking about someone from twenty years ago, this is a guy who is still out there coaching; it's amazing. Horse Radio Network; There are myriad old timey pictures and reading this book is a history lesson on horse showing in the United States. You can't go wrong with this book, and George's exploits will hold your interest for 560 pages. Saddle Seeks Horse; This book is a must read for any serious student of the horse; A dedicated horseman who continues to serve and influence at an age where many are happy to hang up their boots. St. Andrews Equestrian; Morris's surprising candor shows us, at long last, all that has gone into the making of the man who is the most recognizable figure in the equestrian world. Equisearch; Over the course of a book which describes in detail 70+ years of an extremely full career, the reader is pushed and pulled by the stories we know, the George Morris stereotypes we've all come to expect, and the sometimes thrilling and unexpected revelations he makes about himself and others. [Hunter Seat Equitation and Unrelenting] are the how and why of perfection in our sport, and this story of one man's life will leave the reader deeply motivated to follow suit. Horse Nation; This compelling portrait of one of America's most renowned horsemen will appeal to anyone who is entranced with the horse-show circuit and high-society culture. Even readers who are less familiar with horses may enjoy the glimpse into life with the rich and famous. Library Journal; Knowing George is watching gives me a little bit of an edge. It's the immense respect I have for him. Georgina Bloomberg, Team Bronze Medal, 2015 Pan American Games; A lot of people know George for his bark and they take him so seriously, but he has such a keen sense of humor and wit. Most people have never been around him like I have. I feel honored to have a friendship with him. Buck Brannaman, World-Renowned Horseman and Star of the Award-Winning Documentary BUCK; George was a no-nonsense individual who shot from the hip and I liked

that. What you saw was what you got."&#151;Tab Hunter, Film and Television Star&#147;One of the few remaining, working teachers with true, in-depth knowledge of the great figures of the past&#133;as well as the rising stars of the equestrian world&#147;George's future.&#151;Chris Kappler, Individual Silver and Team Gold Medalist, 2004 Olympics&#147;George helps you figure out how to be your absolute best. For him, there is no other way to be in life.&#151;Anne Kursinski, Five-Time Olympian and Two-Time Silver Medalist"George is such a competitor. When we&#147;re with George on a team, we are there to win."&#151;Kent Farrington, Team Gold Medal, 2011 Pan American Games"No matter what your endeavor might be, George fuels you to commit and keep high standards and be a winner."&#151;John Madden, Owner, John Madden Sales"Truly, George has much wisdom to offer and one would be daft to not listen to what he has to say."&#151;Mark Phillips, Team Gold Medal, 1972 Olympics, Former Chef d'Equipe US Eventing Team&#147;In *Unrelenting*, [George Morris] reveals both the vulnerability and the strength that made him into the icon he is today. It is perhaps his bravest move yet.&#151;Street to Stable

George H. Morris is an American trainer and judge of horses and riders in the hunter/jumper disciplines, and is considered a founding father of Hunt Seat Equitation. Morris began riding as a child. In 1952, at the remarkably young age of 14, he won the ASPCA Maclay Horsemanship Finals and AHSA Hunt Seat Equitation Medal Final at Madison Square Garden, making him the youngest rider to do so. He went on to train numerous riders at his Hunterdon Stables (located in Flemington, NJ), who won consistently on the East Coast. Morris has represented the United States in many international competitions as both a rider and coach. In 1959 his team won the gold medal in the Pan American Games and he won a team silver medal and placed fourth individually at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Morris rode on eight winning Nations Cup teams between 1958 and 1960. Morris's students have medaled in the 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2004, and 2008 Olympic Games. Morris has acted as chef d'equipe for numerous winning teams, including the 2005 champions of the Samsung Super League, the gold medal team at the 2008 Hong Kong Olympic Games, and numerous team and individual medals in the World Equestrian Games and Pan American Games. Morris' *Hunter Seat Equitation*, originally published in 1971 and now in its third edition, is often recognized as the definitive work on the subject, including *George Morris Teaches Beginners to Ride*, *A Clinic for Instructors, Parents, and Students*, *The American Jumping Style*, *Because Every Round Counts*, and *Classical Riding with George H. Morris*. Morris also writes a very popular column in the monthly equestrian magazine

Practical Horseman, entitled "Jumping Clinic," in which he critiques the jumping positions of photos which have been submitted by readers. Mr. Morris resides in the heart of the USA show jumping scene in Wellington, Florida. Karen Robertson Terry is a freelance writer and regulatory affairs manager in the pharmaceutical industry. After growing up riding and showing on the east coast and outside Chicago, Karen spent several years in New York City which, among other things, taught her how much she needed horses in her life. She now resides in Bend, Oregon and continues to ride and show in the jumpers, with the occasional trail ride in the Cascade Mountains.

I am not sure that someone who is not at least familiar with horse showing would understand some of this book. But for those of us who have lived with the influence that George Morris has had on equitation, hunters, and jumpers this is a wonderful biography and history. He shares some of his own life in a way that has not happened before. Having finished the book, I keep saying to myself "he was part of Studio 54 nightlife?!?!?" and smiling. He has been involved in show history for so long that the book is almost a history of showing in the US and beyond with some wonderful stories from the entire world of show jumping. Of course, George would write a great book. He is unrelenting in everything he does. But this one is fun too. Just be sure to keep your boots well-shined and soak in some of what it takes to be a world-class equestrian. I hope he has many more years so that the second edition will have more great stories.

I'm not sure if someone who has no knowledge or background in horse showing/hunters/jumpers would appreciate the book as much as I did. But I didn't want the book to end, savored it as a glass of fine wine and enjoyed the length of it. I was a little kid who grew up on the "poor side" of Darien (where Ox Ridge is) who worshipped horses and her distant cousin (who rode in the Garden in the late 60's with Ronnie Mutch-GHM's early riding buddy), then this kid (me) learned to ride and care for horses at New Canaan Mounted Troop (having no idea until reading that book that George ever rode there briefly), and moved on to groom on the A circuit, braiding horses and traveling to various shows with different trainers over the years--all of whom were mentioned in the book and many of the riders. I even went to the Invitational a few months before heading off to college in 1976. I groomed for about 10-15 of the people George mentioned in this book during the 70's before and during my college years--all except George, LOL! Reading this book was amazing as I only experienced him peripherally as I worked many of the shows he also did. Florida and the Northeastern circuit: Ox Ridge, Fairfield, Boulder Brook, such memories--he was, back then, quite a

fearsome character, many of us were scared to death of him!! really enjoyed this book, hearing from George's perspective and how the sport has progressed. Over the past 20 years, I would come back and visit ORHS with my kids and was surprised to see how much the show and sport had changed. It was helpful to read the GHM version of the context of these changes. Since reading this, I've taken to watching GHM clinics online with my 18 year old (horse crazy) daughter! Thanks, George for your contribution to keeping the horse's well-being a priority and helping people be better horsemen/women. Nice read!

Loved it - read it the first week it came out, & just re- read it. I found it educational from a historical perspective (I came to the sport 9 years ago), & a great all encompassing spectrum of the hunter/jumper world over the last 7 decades. GHM's candor was remarkable, & I loved his style of writing. He inspired me to seek out a clinic. And he made me sad for the kids coming up today - nobody gets the freedom & joy to ride around jumping 4 foot solid fences while learning to jump, & our trainers are hindered by lawyers & lawsuits & insurance premiums & liability issues - fear rules the day & we all miss out on gaining the confidence & ability to soar that the previous generation was granted. It makes me sad. What a loss of freedom & power in oneself & ones mount.

I'm not a Morris acolyte, but was interested in hearing his story and how his riding & teaching evolved. However, I found this had too much detail of George's personal life and I ended up putting the book aside by the time it covered his early 20s. The close relationship & interactions between him and other icons of American riding was interesting - so much of our riding foundations from such an inter-twined group who have known each other from their early teens!

George is candid and revealing regarding his rise to the top in the equestrian world. It's always interesting to see the human side behind the scenes of people you admire and respect for their accomplishments

Basics, discipline, humor and - above all - extreme personal honesty are the top thoughts that come to mind. But it is the candor that paints the real life picture. It resonates with me and if I could ride a clinic with George, I believe I could rise to new heights. I hope to do that even though I am a more senior rider (and not so bold but ready to push my limits) and no longer own but lease a horse. George, thank you!

As a AA, I've never been able to experience a clinic with George, much less audit one. My next download will be Hunter Seat Equitation! And our turn out and fitness have already seen an improvement!

Like everything connected with George H. Morris, his book is very interesting, amusing and instructive for those of us who love the Equestrian sport.

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