*The Touch*

*How to land a life-changing gamble*

To land a touch is to win a serious sum of money by betting at long odds on a horse to win a race in which it is considered to be an outsider. This is difficult. If a horse is any good, most people will know that and bet on it themselves. In response, the bookmakers will shorten the odds (returns) they offer on your bet, so that even if the horse does win, you don’t win much money.

To land a touch you must find ways of beating the bookmakers. These ways are covert and complex, often involving many years in the planning. Compared with the touch, the old style bank heist is just a blunt instrument. For many of those involved, the touch is an art, but for the big players, it is a way of life. For them, the touch is everything.

Somewhere, in a racehorse trainer’s kitchen or on a gambler’s smartphone, there is a touch underway right now. There is always a touch going on, but like icebergs, they are usually hidden in the depths. We only ever get to see just the moment when the touch is actually landed. But rely on it: *The Touch is On*.

* With contributions from those involved, *The Touch* takes the reader right inside horseracing, a sport that is not only one of Britain’s major industries, but also the most beguiling and addictive of lifestyles.
* Starting with the author’s personal memory of being part of a touch as a small child, this story is colourful, glamorous, rackety and mostly legal.
* Think of Guy Ritchie’s *The Gentlemen* meets Royal Ascot

**Time frame and Marketplace**

The ms should be deliverable by late autumn. As should be apparent from the synopsis the book is fully realised. Some more research work to include recent interviews with major players is important, but this is already under way.

*The Touch* is a heist movie about racing, set now. Comparable publications include Jamie Reid’s 2013 William Hill Sports Book of the Year, *Doped*. Patrick Radden Keefe’s *Rogues* is another recently published work. My colleague Nick Townend’s *The Sure Thing*, is less personal.