

## Favorite Horse Stories!

A compilation of favorite titles from our  
*Literature & Landscape of the Horse* retreat guests.

Information on the current retreat at [www.pagelambert.com](http://www.pagelambert.com)



### FICTION

#### ***A Dance Around the Desert* by Raechel Bailey Kolb**

This is a richly metaphorical adventure story of two women cast into the desert with their horses. Stumbling into a web of deceit and crime, they are spirited away in the desert darkness. Their fortuitous escape leaves them without shoes, pants, food or saddles; off track, lost to themselves and to their loved ones. Compelled to find the truth, they traverse for days through a dangerous and hostile desert environment. The women struggle to find their way to safety, overcome hardships, and survive in an unforgiving land. Meanwhile, their husbands search for them and struggle with difficulties of their own, creating a perplexing and frustrating dance of crossing paths as they circle through the desert. Funny, passionate and complex, the story revolves around human nature and the ability to reach beyond our comfort zone in order to endure and survive.

#### ***All the Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy**

This is a novel so exuberant in its prose, so offbeat in its setting and so mordant and profound in its deliberations that one searches in vain for comparisons in American literature. None of McCarthy's previous works, not even the award-winning *The Orchard Keeper* (1965) or the much-admired *Blood Meridian* (1985), quite prepares the reader for the singular achievement of this first installment in the projected Border Trilogy. John Grady Cole is a 16-year-old boy who leaves his Texas home when his grandfather dies. With his parents already split up and his mother working in theater out of town, there is no longer reason for him to stay. He and his friend Lacey Rawlins ride their horses south into Mexico; they are joined by another boy, the mysterious Jimmy Blevins, a 14-year-old sharpshooter. Although the year is 1948, the landscape--at some moments parched and unforgiving, at others verdant and gentled by rain--seems out of time, somewhere before history or after it. These likable boys affect the cowboy's taciturnity--they roll cigarettes and say what they mean--and yet amongst themselves are

given to terse, comic exchanges about life and death. In McCarthy's unblinking imagination the boys suffer truly harrowing encounters with corrupt Mexican officials, enigmatic bandits and a desert weather that roils like an angry god. Though some readers may grow impatient with the wild prairie rhythms of McCarthy's language, others will find his voice completely transporting. In what is perhaps the book's most spectacular feat, horses and men are joined in a philosophical union made manifest in the muscular pulse of the prose and the brute dignity of the characters. "What he loved in horses was what he loved in men, the blood and the heat of the blood that ran them," the narrator says of John Grady. As a bonus, Grady endures a tragic love affair with the daughter of a rich Spanish Hacendado, a romance, one hopes, to be resumed later in the trilogy (from *Publisher's Weekly*).

### ***Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell**

Every child loves a story about a horse, and *Black Beauty* remains one of the finest, most touching ever written. Set in Victorian London, the novel follows the shifting fortunes of a horse as he moves from owner to owner. Narrated by the noble *Black Beauty* himself, the tale offers an animal's perspective of the world, and highlights the thoughtless, even cruel treatment animals endured during that period.

### ***Eventide* by Kent Haruf**

From *Publishers Weekly*: Haruf's follow-up to the critically acclaimed and bestselling *Plainsong* is as lovely and accomplished as its predecessor. The aging bachelor McPheron brothers and their beloved charges, Victoria and her daughter, Katie, return (though Victoria quickly heads off to college), and Haruf introduces new folks—a disabled couple and their children, an old man and the grandson who lives with him—in this moving exploration of smalltown lives in rural Holt, Colo. Ranchers Raymond and Harold McPheron have spent their whole lives running land that has been in their family for many generations, so when Harold is killed by an enraged bull, worn-out Raymond faces a void unlike any he has ever known. His subsequent first-ever attempts at courtship and romance are almost heartbreaking in their innocence, but after some missteps, he finds unexpected happiness with kind Rose Tyler. Rose is the caseworker for a poor couple struggling so dimly and futilely to better their lives that it becomes painful to witness. Children play crucial roles in the novel's tapestry of rural life, and they are not spared life's trials. But Haruf's characters, such as 11-year-old orphan DJ Kephart, who cares for his retired railroad worker grandfather, and Mary Wells, whose husband abandons her with two young girls, maintain an elemental dignity no matter how buffeted by adversity. And while there is much sadness and hardship in this portrait of a community, Haruf's sympathy for his characters, no matter how flawed they are, make this an uncommonly rich novel. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

### ***Hearts of Horses* by Molly Gloss**

This breakout novel from the author of *The Jump-Off Creek* tells the heartwarming story of a determined young woman with a gift for "gentling" wild horses. In the winter of 1917, a big-boned young woman shows up at George Bliss's doorstep. She's looking for a job breaking horses, and he hires her on. Many of his regular hands are off fighting the war, and he glimpses, beneath her showy rodeo garb, a shy but strong-willed girl with a serious knowledge of horses. So begins the irresistible tale of nineteen-year-old Martha Lessen, a female horse whisperer trying to make a go of it in a man's world. It was thought that the only way to break a horse was to buck the wild out of it, and broken ribs and tough falls just went with the job. But over several long, hard winter months, many of the townsfolk in this remote county of eastern Oregon witness Martha's way of talking in low, sweet tones to horses believed beyond repair—and getting miraculous, almost immediate results—and she thereby earns a place of respect in the community. Along the way, Martha helps a family save their horses when their wagon slides into a ravine. She gentles a horse for a dying man—a last gift to his young son. She clashes with a hired hand who is abusing horses in unspeakable ways. Soon, despite her best efforts to remain aloof and detached, she comes to feel enveloped by a sense of community and family that she's never

had before. With the elegant sweetness of *Plainsong* and a pitch-perfect sense of western life reminiscent of Annie Dillard, *The Hearts of Horses* is a remarkable story about how people and animals make connections and touch each other's lives in the most unexpected and profound ways.

***Horse Heaven* by Jane Smiley**

The Chinese calendar aside, 2000 may be the Year of the Horse. Almost neck and neck with Alyson Hagy's *Keeneland*, this novel about horses and their breeders, owners, trainers, grooms, jockeys, traders, bettors and other turf-obsessed humans is another winner. Smiley, it turns out, knows a prodigious amount about Thoroughbreds, and she is as good at describing the stages of their lives, their temperaments and personalities as she is in chronicling the ambitions, financial windfalls and ruins, love affairs, partings and reconciliations of her large cast of human characters. With settings that range from California and Kentucky to Paris, the novel covers two years in which the players vie with each other to produce a mount that can win high-stakes races. Readers will discover that hundreds of things can go wrong with a horse, from breeding through birth, training and racing, and that every race has variables and hazards that can produce danger and death, as well as the loss of millions of dollars. (A scene in which one horse stumbles and sets off a chain reaction of carnage is heartbreaking.) Characters who plan, scheme, connive and yearn for a winner include several greedy, impetuous millionaires and their wives; one trainer who is a model of rectitude, and another who has found Jesus but is crooked to the core; two preadolescent, horse-obsessed kids; a knockout black woman whose beauty is the entrance key to the racing world; the horses themselves (cleverly, Smiley depicts a horse communicator who can see into the equine mind); and one very sassy Jack Russell dog. Written with high spirits and enthusiasm, distinguished by Smiley's wry humor (as in *Moo*), the novel gallops into the home stretch without losing momentum (by *Publisher's Weekly*).

***If Wishes Were Horses* by Merry Whiteford**

Whiteford weaves a tale of self-discovery in this affecting story of a young girl growing up in upstate New York during the 1970s. Star Hennessy's mother, Mildred, is an alcoholic prostitute who has long since lost her hold on reality, relinquishing Star and her brother, Lucky, to a strict foster home that they share with two other emotionally scarred orphan boys, Pig and Skeeter. Star is a typical teenager in many respects, but she and her three companions are street smart and world weary, facing the harsh realities of their dubious social status with a bravado incongruous with their adolescence and a touching loyalty to each other. At 16, Star finds solace in poetry, but despite her intelligence and her sophistication about her mother's profession, she becomes pregnant by Pig. This cataclysm leads her to new insights about her background, as well as a pivotal decision about the direction of her life. Star's narrative voice is strong, but her patience with and sympathy for her feckless mother strain credulity, and many of the events in this sentimentalized portrait of a sensitive girl battling for a decent life are improbable. Star's redemption and fledgling career as a poet could be inspiring to teenagers, however, and this uplifting novel could find a home on the YA shelf (*Publisher's Weekly*).

***In the Presence of Horses: A Novel* by Barbara Dimmick**

A woman unsettled by early loss, her parents, a sister, a beloved aunt and riding teacher, seeks solace in the unswerving loyalty of horses in a first novel more reminiscent of the stage play *Equus* than the recent books *The Man Who Listens to Horses* and *The Horse Whisperer*. Natalie Baxter, nearly 40 when the story begins, has spent her adult life fixated on horses, drifting from farm to farm until she finds herself perilously close to her hometown of Bethlehem, Pa., and in the employ of horse owner Pierce Kreitzer. He is as loss-scarred as she is and even less able to surface from a quagmire of self-pity. Dimmick provides a fine look at Lehigh Valley, the working-class, Moravian-influenced towns that depended for so long on steel mills and subsidiary industries and paid a heavy price in accidental and chemically caused deaths. Natalie has felt cut off from her roots ever since she left the valley, impelled to escape memories of a complicated childhood. Now she is drawn to a hobbled black horse named

Twister that had belonged to Pierce's dead sister. She establishes an almost mystical relationship with the horse, but when she thinks "He has the mind of God," readers may not quite share the spiritual bond. And since Twister has a degenerative disease, another loss is inevitable for Natalie. Natalie herself is sometimes all insight, sometimes blind. Yet Dimmick will keep readers intrigued as she injects suspenseful incidents into the narrative (the pistol in the first act is indeed fired in the last scene). Natalie's coming to terms with her life, and her jolting ride toward redemption turn out to be absorbing (*Publisher's Weekly*).

***Justin Morgan Had a Horse* by Marguerite Henry and Wesley Dennis** (for ages 9 -12)

Joel Goss knows that Little Bub is a special colt, even though he's a runt. And when schoolteacher Justin Morgan asks Joel to break the colt in, Joel is thrilled! Soon word about Little Bub has spread throughout the entire Northeast -- this spirited colt can pull heavier loads than a pair of oxen. And run faster than thoroughbreds! This is the story of the little runt who became the father of the world-famous breed of American horses -- the Morgan.

***King of the Wind* by Marguerite Henry**

The story of the Godolphin Arabian, considered the founder of the breed. "This is the classic story of Sham and his friend, the stable boy Agba. Their adventures take them from the sands of the Sahara to the royal courts of France, and finally to the green pastures and stately homes of England. For Sham was the renowned Godolphin Arabian, whose blood flows through the veins of almost very superior thoroughbred. Sham's speed -- like his story -- has become legendary.

***Marchlands* by Karla Kuban**

The setting is a 1,000-acre sheep ranch in the vast landscape of Wyoming; the story concerns one pivotal year in the life of 15-year-old Sophie Behr, a young woman searching for the truth about her family's past, even as she seeks to define her own future with the child she is carrying. Unable to tolerate the unpredictable behavior of her fanatically religious, alcoholic mother--who obsessively watches the nightly news broadcasts hoping to see her son, who is fighting in Viet Nam--Sophie flees the ranch in search of the father who abandoned her when she was four. She seeks to identify that part of herself that came from him, looking for the truth of why he left, hoping for connection. Kuban's heralded debut is perfectly rendered in the context of a particular time and place, yet is classically timeless, capturing that fleeting moment when the transition is made from childhood into adulthood. Sophie's matter-of-fact narration, endearing from the first page on, is masterful in its revelation of the layers of complexity inherent in self-knowledge (from *Booklist*).

***Man O'War* by Walter Farley** (children 9 – 12)

A fictionalized biography of the American race horse who won twenty of twenty-one races, told by a stable boy who grew up with the great horse.

***Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry**

On an island off the coasts of Virginia and Maryland lives a centuries-old band of wild ponies. Among them is the most mysterious of all, Phantom, a rarely seen mare that eludes all efforts to capture her--that is, until a young boy and girl lay eyes on her and determine that they can't live without her. The frenzied roundup that follows on the next "Pony Penning Day" does indeed bring Phantom into their lives, in a way they never would have suspected. Phantom would forever be a creature of the wild. But her gentle, loyal colt Misty is another story altogether. Marguerite Henry's Newbery Honor Book has captivated generations of boys and girls both with its thrilling descriptions of true incidents from the tiny island of Chincoteague, and its realistic yet wonderfully magical atmosphere. This story of an animal brought into captivity poignantly reveals the powerful opposing forces of humans and nature.

Wesley Dennis's pen-and-ink ponies are masterfully depicted with rippling muscles, shaggy coats, and free spirits (by Amazon.com).

***My Friend Flicka* by Mary O'Hara**

A classic story from 1941. A daydreamer and a time waster, young Ken McLaughlin spends his days on his family's Wyoming ranch with his head in the clouds, surrounded by endless blue skies, wide-open spaces, and beautiful horses. To his brusque, practical father, the boy is an enigma and a disappointment. Then one day, Ken's life is filled with new purpose when he finds Flicka, a magnificent filly as wild as she is fast. Though the strong bond between boy and horse only fuels his father's disdain, Ken's growing love for his friend Flicka is changing him -- leading a once-aimless young man down the path to responsible adulthood, forging a new respect and understanding between father and son, and inspiring a fierce loyalty that nearly costs Ken his life.

***National Velvet* by Enid Bagnold**

Fourteen-year-old Velvet Brown's cut-out paper horses become real when she wins a notorious piebald horse in a town lottery and dreams of entering him in the Grand National steeplechase race despite the fact she's a girl. At once a family story and a dramatic horse story, this work was published in 1938 by a woman who went to school with Aldous Huxley and ran a small stable in the heart of England.

***Out of the Wild* by Mark Rashid**

The lives of a Nevada cowboy and a guest ranch owner become woven together by an injured mustang. What transpires is a story not only of redemption, moving beyond our deepest wounds and discovering a life we never dreamed we could live, but also a glimpse into ways of looking at horses, and perhaps even ourselves, with new eyes.

***Plainsong* by Kent Haruf**

Amazon review: *Plainsong*, according to Kent Haruf's epigraph, is "any simple and unadorned melody or air." It's a perfect description of this lovely, rough-edged book, set on the very edge of the Colorado plains. Tom Guthrie is a high school teacher whose wife can't--or won't--get out of bed; the McPherons are two bachelor brothers who know little about the world beyond their farm gate; Victoria Roubideaux is a pregnant 17-year-old with no place to turn. Their lives parallel each other in much the same way any small-town lives would--until Maggie Jones, another teacher, makes them intersect. Even as she tries to draw Guthrie out of his black cloud, she sends Victoria to live with the two elderly McPheron brothers, who know far more about cattle than about teenage girls. Trying to console her when she thinks she's hurt her baby, the best lie they can come up with is this: "I knew of a heifer we had one time that was carrying a calf, and she got a length of fence wire down her some way and it never hurt her or the calf."

Holt, Colorado, is the kind of small town where everyone knows everyone's business before that business even happens. In a way, that's true of the book, too. There's not a lot of suspense here, plotwise; you can see each narrative twist and turn coming several miles down the pike. What *Plainsong* has instead is note-perfect dialogue, surrounded by prose that's straightforward yet rich in particulars: "a woman walking a white lapdog on a piece of ribbon," glimpsed from a car window; the boys' mother, her face "as pale as schoolhouse chalk"; the smells of hay and manure, the variations of prairie light. Even the novel's larger questions are sized to a domestic scale. Will Guthrie find love? Will Victoria run away with the father of her baby? Will the McPherons learn to hold a conversation? But in this case, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and *Plainsong* manages to capture nothing less than an entire world--fencing pliers, calf-pullers, and all. Kent Haruf has a gorgeous ear, and a knack for rendering the simple complex. --Mary Park

***Quicksand: the mysterious disappearance of Dakotaroo* by Krista Michelle Breen (children)**

The first in Krista Michelle Breen's adventures of Dakotaroo. T.J. Thompson's world is thrown upside down when her beloved Appaloosa pony mysteriously disappears into the fog. T.J. and her fearless friend Adrienne Brooks embark on a puzzling cross country journey in search of Dakotaroo. Aided in their adventure by Adrienne's annoying younger brother Phillip, the girls soon begin to understand the strange destiny of T.J.'s Appaloosa.

***Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Linda Hillenbrand**

Gifted sportswriter Hillenbrand unearths the rarefied world of thoroughbred horse racing in this captivating account of one of the sport's legends. Though no longer a household name, Seabiscuit enjoyed great celebrity during the 1930s and 1940s, drawing record crowds to his races around the country. Not an overtly impressive physical specimen, "His stubby legs were a study in unsound construction, with huge, squarish, asymmetrical 'baseball glove' knees that didn't quite straighten all the way, the horse seemed to transcend his physicality as he won race after race. Hillenbrand, a contributor to *Equus* magazine, profiles the major players in Seabiscuit's fantastic and improbable career. In simple, elegant prose, she recounts how Charles Howard, a pioneer in automobile sales and Seabiscuit's eventual owner, became involved with horse racing, starting as a hobbyist and growing into a fanatic. She introduces esoteric recluse Tom Smith (Seabiscuit's trainer) and jockey Red Pollard, a down-on-his-luck rider whose specialty was taming unruly horses. In 1936, Howard united Smith, Pollard and "The Biscuit," whose performance had been spotty and the horse's star career began. Smith, who recognized Seabiscuit's potential, felt an immediate rapport with him and eased him into shape. Once Seabiscuit started breaking records and outrunning lead horses, reporters thronged the Howard barn day and night. Smith's secret workouts became legendary and only heightened Seabiscuit's mystique. Hillenbrand deftly blends the story with explanations of the sport and its culture, including vivid descriptions of the Tijuana horse-racing scene in all its debauchery. She roots her narrative of the horse's breathtaking career and the wild devotion of his fans in its socioeconomic context: Seabiscuit embodied the underdog myth for a nation recovering from dire economic straits (review from *Publisher's Weekly*).

***Smoky, the Cowhorse* by Will James**

Smoky knows only one way of life: freedom. Living on the open range, he is free to go where he wants and to do what he wants. And he knows what he has to do to survive. He can beat any enemy, whether it be a rattlesnake or a hungry wolf. He is as much a part of the Wild West as it is of him, and Smoky can't imagine anything else. But then he comes across a new enemy, one that walks on two legs and makes funny sounds. Smoky can't beat this enemy the way he has all the others. But does he really want to? Or could giving up some of his freedom mean getting something in return that's even more valuable? For all readers young at heart.

***The Black Stallion, Man O'War, The Black Stallion and Satan, etc.* by Walter Farley**

Walter Farley's tales of bravery, instinct, and survival have been captivating readers for almost 65 years. Here, in a handsome gift set, are four of the best, starting with *The Black Stallion*, where Alec Ramsay saves the Black after a shipwreck. The bond they form cannot be broken. This bond survives their separation in *The Black Stallion Returns*, when Alec returns the magnificent horse to his original owner in Arabia. Reunited in *The Black Stallion's Ghost*, they survive a terrifying curse. Finally, in *The Black Stallion Revolts*, they are separated again after a plane crash, and Alec is suspected of murder as the Black runs wild! Each gripping tale culminates in a thrilling race to the finish!

***The God of Animals* by Aryn Kyle**

Aryn Kyle's haunting coming-of-age novel is the kind of book that you want to share with everyone you know. Twelve-year-old Alice Winston is growing up fast on her father's run-down horse ranch--coping

with the death of a classmate and the absence of her older sister (who ran off with a rodeo cowboy), trying to understand her depressed and bedridden mother, and attempting to earn the love and admiration of her reticent, weary father. Lyrical, powerful, and unforgettable, *The God of Animals* is our must-read, must-own, must-share book for March (Amazon.com).

### ***The Horse Whisperer* by Nicholas Evans**

*The Horse Whisperer* is a story made in Hollywood heaven. The novel was written by a first-time author, and the film option was snapped up by aging heartthrob Robert Redford for 3 million smackers. Why take such risks on a brand-spanking-new author? The answer becomes clear upon reading the touching tale. One morning while teenage Grace Maclean is riding Pilgrim, her goofy, loveable pony, she has a horrendous glass-shattering, bone-splintering, ligament-lynching meeting with a megaton truck that leaves her and her four-legged friend damaged in mind, body, and spirit. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, her jaded, brilliant, bitchy mom, Annie Graves (Kristin Scott Thomas in the 1998 film) is working out a wrinkle in her self-absorbed existence when she gets a call at her plush, Manhattan office about Grace's accident. Racked with guilt, Graves makes it her calling to find the mythical horse whisperer, an equine Zen master who has the ability to heal horses (and broken souls) with soothing words and a gentle touch. Just when it seems he can't be found, what do you know, she finds him. He arrives in the form of Tom Booker-- a rugged, sensitive, dreamy cowboy who helps Pilgrim and Grace repair their fractured selves. To add more mesquite to fire, Booker has a way with not-so-injured, attractive, married women-like Annie. As the plot thickens, so does the familial strife, which threatens to undo Booker's healing work. Like an expert cinematographer, Evans deftly crafts each scene with precision and clarity, sprinkling in ominous signs and foreboding images. For example, in the opening paragraphs, as Annie starts out on the tragic ride, she comes across a bloody bird wing that seems to have fallen out of nowhere. The weight of impending doom is further strengthened by the truck driver's bad luck--he has a run-in with the highway patrol just moments before his meeting with Grace and Pilgrim. These not-so-subtle subliminal messages are masterfully stitched in throughout the story and may compel readers to act as if they were watching a B-grade horror movie, shouting aloud, "Don't go there!" However sentimental, *The Horse Whisperer* is an engaging read, sort of like a finely tuned, well-edited film (review by Amazon.com).

### ***The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck**

The story of a young boy and life on his father's California ranch, raising a sorrel colt. Review: Book of four related stories by John Steinbeck, published in 1937 and expanded in 1945. The stories chronicle a young boy's maturation. In "The Gift," the best-known story, young Jody Tiflin is given a red pony by his rancher father. Under ranch hand Billy Buck's guidance, Jody learns to care for and train his pony, which he names Gabilan. Caught in an unexpected rain, Gabilan catches a cold and, despite Billy Buck's ministrations, dies. Jody watches the buzzards alight on the body of his beloved pony, and, distraught at his inability to control events, he kills one of them. The other stories in *The Red Pony* are "The Great Mountains," "The Promise," and "The Leader of the People," in which Jody develops empathy and also learns from his grandfather about "westering," the migration of people to new places and the urge for new experiences.

### ***The White Stallion* by Elizabeth Shub (children 9 – 12)**

Carried away from her wagon train in Texas in 1845 by the old mare she is riding, a little girl is befriended by a white stallion.

### ***Thunderhead* by Mary O'Hara**

A follow-up to the childhood classic *My Friend Flicka*. "That rare achievement, a sequel to a great and richly deserved success that in no way falls short of its distinguished predecessor . . . a fine and singing story." (*The New York Times*).

***Traveler* by Richard Adams** Returning to an animal protagonist, the author of the beloved *Watership Down* has come up with an ironic, revisionist view of the Civil War as seen by Robert E. Lee's horse, Traveller. Told as he and Lee live in quiet retirement, in a series of monologues directed at an amiable tomcat, Traveller's story depicts the war's battles, retreats and casualties from the naive perspective of a hero-worshipping servant to a great leader; down to the final surrender, Traveller's idealization of his rider doesn't allow him to recognize or even understand defeat. Fans of Adams's earlier novels will rejoice in his undiminished gift for conveying both the physical life and the interior essence of an animal. He makes Traveller a vivid, touching character, never merely a talking beast. But the author's depiction of human action is less convincing with repetitious, meandering delineations of encampments, advances and attacks that rob the tale of drama, reported in quaint Old South dialect that comes, unfortunately, straight from the horse's mouth. 50,000 first printing; BOMC alternate.

## NONFICTION (INCLUDING MEMOIR)

### ***A History of Horsemanship* by Charles Chenevix-Trench**

Note from Page: Although I couldn't find a product description on this book, or a review on this 320-page book (published in 1970 by Doubleday), it comes highly recommended by my dear Wyoming friend, author and editor Gaydell Collier (who co-authored *Basic Horsemanship*).

### ***A Good Horse is Never a Bad Color* by Mark Rashid**

In this follow-up to his first book, "Considering the Horse," Mark Rashid continues to share his gift for using communication, not force, in working with horses. Rashid uses heart-warming and humorous stories to share his techniques of teaching horses by understanding their view of the world. These tales deal with many facets of buying, owning, and training horses. Stories of Arabs, appaloosas, and paints—mistrusted and mistreated because of their breed—will give you a new perspective on these breeds and others. Rashid's accounts of horses bound for slaughter because they couldn't be trained will inspire you to give your own problem horse another look. And when Wil, the ugliest horse you can imagine, turns out to be the best on the ranch, you'll understand why a good horse is never a bad color.

### ***A Gymnastic Riding System Using Mind, Body, and Spirit Progressive Training for Rider and Horse* by Betsy Steiner with Jennifer Bryant**

Most books on dressage discuss the physical aspects of riding: horse position, rider position, use of the aids, and movements. International dressage rider and trainer Betsy Steiner believes that the physical (body) is just one-third of the riding equation with two vital components—the intellectual (mind) and the psychological (spirit)—that are equally important.

### ***A Life with Horses: Spirit of the Work* by mark Rashid & Kathleen Lindley**

In this beautiful full-color book, popular authors Mark Rashid and Kathleen Lindley team up to provide the reader with an intimate look into a world of horses and horsemanship clinics that few people get to see close up. Lindley's vibrant photographs, accompanied by descriptive text by both authors, chronicle the spirit of their life's work. In covering subjects such as a young wild Mustang's initial handling, softness, friendship, and hands that employ the tools of the trade, this book offers the reader an unflinching and compassionate pictorial account of a life with horses.

### ***Album of Horses* by Marguerite Henry**

The award-winning author of the wonderful stories *Misty of Chincoteague*, *King of the Wind*, and *Brighty of the Grand Canyon*, Marguerite Henry describes in vivid detail the hardworking Shire, the elegant Lipizzan, the spirited Mustang, and many more. Never before have facts about horses been more accessible, and with Wesley Dennis's classic illustrations highlighting every page, this unique collection is sure to be treasured by horse lovers of all ages.

***America's Last Wild Horses: The Classic Study of the Mustangs--Their Pivotal Role in the History of the West, Their Return to the Wild, and the Ongoing Efforts to Preserve Them* by Hope Ryden**

Fewer than 17,000 wild horses remain in the U.S., down from 2,000,000 in 1900; Ryden's narrative tells what has happened to them and why. In a 1970 review, PW called this "a richly researched and well-written book with an unusual appeal." Photos. (*Publisher's Weekly*).

***Animal Magnetism* by Rita Mae Brown**

Rita Mae Brown's earliest memory is of the soothing purr of Mickey, her family's long-haired tiger cat, who curled up and claimed a spot in her crib. From there, a steady parade of cats, dogs, horses, and all manner of two- and four-legged critters have walked, galloped, and flown into and through her world. In *Animal Magnetism*, the bestselling author shares the lessons she's learned from these marvelous creatures as well as her deep appreciation for them.

***Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior* by Temple Grandin**

Philosophers and scientists have long wondered what goes on in the minds of animals, and this fascinating study gives a wealth of illuminating insights into that mystery. Grandin, an animal behavior expert specializing in the design of humane slaughter systems, is autistic, and she contends that animals resemble autistic people in that they think visually rather than linguistically and perceive the world as a jumble of mesmerizing details rather than a coherent whole. Animals—cows, say, on their way through a chute—are thus easily spooked by novelties that humans see as trivialities, such as high-pitched noises, drafts and dangling clothes. Other animals accomplish feats of obsessive concentration; squirrels really do remember where each acorn is buried. The portrait she paints of the mammalian mind is both alien and familiar; she shows that beasts are capable of sadistic cruelty, remorse, superstition and surprising discernment (in one experiment, pigeons were taught to distinguish between early period Picasso and Monet). Grandin (*Thinking in Pictures*) and Johnson (coauthor of *Shadow Syndromes*) deploy a simple, lucid style to synthesize a vast amount of research in neurology, cognitive psychology and evolutionary biology, supplementing it with Grandin's firsthand observations of animal behavior and her own experiences with autism, engaging anecdotes about how animals interact with each other and their masters, and tips on how to pick and train house pets. The result is a lively and absorbing look at the world from animals' point of view.

***Basic Horsemanship: English and Western* by Eleanor Prince and Gaydell Collier**

A Doubleday Equestrian Library selection. This book provides precise, practical, step-by-step instructions for riders and trainers at all levels; a clear guide to establishing a sound relationship between horse and rider—no matter which riding style you plan to employ. Includes thoroughly illustrated programs, lessons, and insights.

***Believe: A Horseman's Journey* by Buck Brannaman and William Reynolds**

In his best-selling *The Faraway Horses*, Buck Brannaman, extraordinary trainer and acknowledged inspiration for *The Horse Whisperer*, described how he found his calling and honed his art and craft. In the year since the book's publication and following its widespread acclaim, the universal application of Brannaman's approach to interpersonal relationships has struck a responsive chord in the equestrian community and with the public at large. *Believe* continues to chronicle the man's efforts as a catalyst and a mentor as we meet thirteen people with whom he has worked. Through their own words and

through Brannaman's perceptive introductions to each essay, we experience first-hand the hope and confidence that he has instilled in these individuals and in their horses. "Others have falsely claimed to be the inspiration for Tom Booker in *The Horse Whisperer*. The one who truly inspired me was Buck Brannaman. His skill, understanding and his gentle, loving heart have parted the clouds for countless troubled creatures. Buck is the Zen master of the horse world."--Nicholas Evans, *The Horse Whisperer*.

### ***Broken: A Love Story* by Lisa Jones**

Writer Lisa Jones went to Wyoming for a four-day magazine assignment and came home four years later with a new life. At a dusty corral on the Wind River Indian Reservation, she met Stanford Addison, a Northern Arapaho who seemed to transform everything around him. He gentled horses rather than breaking them by force. It was said that he could heal people of everything from cancer to bipolar disorder. He did all this from a wheelchair; he had been a quadriplegic for more than twenty years. Intrigued, Lisa sat at Stanford's kitchen table and watched... Over the years Lisa was a frequent visitor to Stanford's place, the reservation and its people worked on her, exposing and healing the places where she, too, was broken. *Broken* entwines her story with Stanford's, exploring powerful spirits, material poverty, spiritual wealth, friendship, violence, confusion, death, and above all else, "a love that comes before and after and above and below romantic love."

### ***Centered Riding* by Sally Swift**

Even the best riders know what it's like to hit a learning plateau-- a time when, no matter how hard you work, you seem to get nowhere. Such interruptions in rider's progress often stem from a false or imprecise understanding of what he or she is trying to do, or the lack of a key image that could put things together, working in synchrony. For the rider who needs either or both of these (and who does not, from time to time?), Sally Swift's *Centered Riding* will prove indispensable. Wonderfully explicit in explaining and showing *what* should work *how*, *Centered Riding* is also wonderfully imaginative in finding just the right psychological images to help go beyond the mere mechanics. A work of truly remarkable originality and ingenuity, it cannot fail to help many riders attain their present goals, and then move ahead to set higher ones.

### ***Chicken Soup for the Horse Lovers Soul* by Jack Canfield, Victor Hanson, Marty Becker**

Our connection to the horse is ancient and visceral. These humble creatures are mentioned in the earliest samplings of the written word, which illustrates how the human/equine bond transcends cultural and economic barriers. The horse's integral role in man's evolution, society's development and the growth of civilizations is unquestioned; they have been immortalized by Hollywood, cherished by little girls and mourned by warriors. *Chicken Soup for the Horse Lover's Soul* is filled with inspiring stories of rescue and rehabilitation, heartbreaking losses, dedication and commitment, and positive messages of responsibility and unconditional love. Readers will enjoy uplifting and humorous stories that depict the horse's intelligence, versatility and intuitiveness; they will discover the horse's healing powers, marvel at the graceful performance of a Grand Prix Dressage winner, be awed by the stamina and strength of a working horse and the athletic prowess of a champion racer.

### ***Chosen by a Horse* by Susan Richards**

The horse Susan Richard chose for rescue wouldn't be corralled into her waiting trailer. But Lay Me Down, a former race horse with a foal walked right up to her and into her life, teaching this broken-hearted woman the joys of life.

### ***Complete Training of Horse and Rider* by Alois Podhajsky**

Review and principles of riding, definitions of the classical art of riding, training of the horse, training of the rider, saddles and bridles, the Spanish Riding School. Index

***Dancing with Your Dark Horse* by Chris Irwin**

In *Dancing with Your Dark Horse*, Chris Irwin, world-renowned as one of the most successful horse whisperers in North America, further explores the intriguing spiritual connection he has discovered between human and equine nature. Based on his more than twenty years of working with, training, and observing horses, Irwin explains how the characteristics necessary to building good relationships with horses can in turn be used to establish a positive balance between mind, body, and spirit in our own lives. *Dancing with Your Dark Horse* will help readers see that horses have a great deal to teach us about how to live happier, healthier, and more balanced lives

***Dark Horses and Black Beauties –Animals, Women, A Passion* by Melissa Holbrook Pierson**

During her midlife quest to explain the horse-filled frenzy of her childhood, Pierson (*The Perfect Vehicle: What Is It About Motorcycles?*) interviews the founder of an equine welfare group who expertly classifies the three kinds of women who love horses: "Those who want something out of them, personally or professionally; those who anthropomorphize them; and those who are seeking a higher knowledge about horses and humans and the mysteries of their intersection." The author falls into the last group as she plumbs the depths of both the feminine and the equine, looking closely at how the two intertwine. Although the book freely mixes history, memoir, sociology, psychology and even snippets of poetry, Pierson does follow a clear narrative line. Acknowledging that her love of horses has endured long past childhood, she signs up for riding lessons. As she recalls passages from *Black Beauty* and describes Breyer model horse competitions from her youth, the author grows into a better horsewoman, remembering riding techniques and recapturing her love for manure's particular smell. As she gets more expert, her meditation on women and horses deepens and ranges more widely, encompassing horse racing, sidesaddle riding, class issues and competition. Pierson's smooth writing style is well suited to her subject, containing bits of breathless enthusiasm one moment and peaceful contemplation the next. Although she doesn't arrive at a definitive answer to why little girls all over the Western world suddenly become horse obsessed, she does provide a host of smaller, personal epiphanies about a woman's need to connect with the natural world, and the empowerment that comes from commanding a larger, more forceful being.

***Downunder Horsemanship: Establishing Respect and Control for English and Western Riders* by Clinton Anderson**

Reader Review: What I especially appreciate about his approach is its effectiveness. Anderson excels in two areas: his techniques give rapid results and he is an exceptional communicator. Most of his clinics are not the standard get-a-green-horse-in-the-round-pen-and-be-on-him-by-the-end-of-the-day. Instead, he works with riders who are having problems with their horses, and teaches the riders to be trainers rather than doing the work for them. That approach has helped him refine his techniques and appreciate all the ways we are likely to apply them incorrectly. For the book, Anderson recruited two riders with problem horses and put them through his program. Each chapter describes the technique, its purpose, how to apply it, how to deal with bad reactions from the horse and mistakes from the rider. It was especially helpful to read the comments from the two women on how their horses reacted and how they had to overcome their own mistakes.

***Equus the Creation of a Horse* by Robert Vavra**

William Morrow and Company, 1977. No product description available on Amazon.com.

***Healing Power of Horses: Lessons From the Lakota Indians* by Wendy Beth Baker** (attended 2009 Literature & Landscape of the Horse retreat) Wendy Baker shows the strength of the Lakota people and their ability to survive and thrive as an Indian tribe. -- *Adrian C. Louis, author of Skins*. *Healing Power of Horses* is the story of how the author, Wendy Beth Baker, began studying the equine philosophy of the Lakota Indians as a way to return to horses after being badly injured in a horse riding accident. Wendy's

healing experience is intertwined with the profiles of twelve Lakota Indians who have been strengthened individually and as a community from their relationship with horses. See firsthand how horses have influenced the Lakota--and Wendy--and how they have helped them to find spiritual healing and rejuvenation. The reverence and passion that the Lakota have for their horses is sure to inspire both riders and non-riders alike. Full-color photographs capture the life of the Lakota people and their horses, illustrating the stores of spirit and life.

***Horses* by Thomas McGuane and Jay Dusard**

Horses and humans have a long history together, from wild steppe to farm field to battlefield, from rodeo arena to backyard. In *Horses*, Jay Dusard and Thomas McGuane illuminate the special bond that grows between riders and mounts. Their book is a memorable collaboration between two masters: Dusard offers his insight in words as well as in his extraordinary photography, McGuane in a pair of essays. Those who love horses are impelled by an ever-receding vision, some enchanted transformation through which the horse and the rider become a third, much greater thing," writes McGuane, also an acclaimed novelist and horseman. More than words, more than pictures, this slim, beautiful book is also a "third thing." "To some people," McGuane observes, "horses have wings." Comic, exquisite, gritty, and wise—*Horses* flies on wings of its own.

***Horses Don't Lie: What Horses Teach Us About Our Natural Capacity for Awareness, Confidence, Courage, and Trust* by Chris Irwin**

In *Horses Don't Lie*, Chris Irwin, one of the most successful horse whisperers in North America, shows us that horses have much to teach us about ourselves when we strive to understand their behavior. Based on more than twenty years of working with, training, and observing horses, Irwin explains why trust and honesty are essential elements in building relationships with horses, and why the sensitivity and awareness that characterize a horse's perception of the world are qualities we can use to enrich our own lives. "A horse knows what you know," Irwin reminds us, and in *Horses Don't Lie* his message is clear: Horses have a great deal to teach us about how to communicate with empathy and patience—not only with them, but also with each other.

***Horses: From Our Side of the Fence* by Sandy Lagno**

Horses owners are always saying, "I wish I knew what my horse is THINKING." Using her skills as an intuitive, this author translates the horses' point of view about breeding, shoeing, death, being wild and many other topics. Amazing information. From racing, to cutting cattle, to raising foals, to working in a lesson barn, the horses tell the reader what they think of the jobs we give them and the demands we make upon them. Ground breaking first-hand stories.

***Horse: How the Horse Shaped Civilizations* by J Edward Chamberlain.**

Drawing on archaeology, biology, art, literature, and ethnography, this singular work illuminates the relationship between horse and human throughout history.

***Horse People: Scenes from the Riding Life* by Michael Korda**

A *New York Times* Notable Book. Korda (*Country Matters*; *Charmed Lives*) recounts in his trademark affable style a growing involvement over decades with horses and the people who ride them. Beginning with his youth, and following with his reconnection to the horse world when he takes his son to lessons, Korda relates how horses changed his life: he met his current wife, Margaret, at New York City's Claremont Riding Academy, and eventually they purchased a home in Dutchess County with grounds to accommodate a growing number of horses. In one hilarious episode, Korda, the editor-in-chief at Simon & Schuster, visits an author in Middleburg, Va., and finds himself, unprepared, on a foxhunting horse jumping over walls and into backyards. He begins to analyze the symbolism of horses ("the horse stood... for social superiority, mobility, and not getting your feet wet and muddy like ordinary folk"),

but this meditation is an exception, as Korda favors the anecdote and the caricature. There are rather too many "movers and shakers" for this book to live up to the diversity implied by its title, and while he briefly raises moral questions (about foxhunting, for example), he largely ignores the sociopolitical and emotional aspects of the horse-human relationship. He takes his reader on the occasional jaunt through less tony neighborhoods (with a veterinarian in Rhinebeck, N.Y.; to a rodeo in Archer City, Tex., with Larry McMurtry; and to a correctional facility's horse farm), but he tends to focus on places like Southlands, a privately owned facility in Dutchess County. While the book is more a series of vignettes than a full narrative, Korda's humor will be a delight to anyone who loves the world of riding. Review by *Publisher's Weekly*.

***Horse Sense and the Human Heart: What Horses Can Teach Us About Trust, Bonding, Creativity, and Spirituality* by McCormick Adele von Rust, PhD, and McCormick, Marlena Deborah, PhD**

Can horses really teach us to be better human beings? In this groundbreaking work, you will discover that the answer is a resounding "Yes". While working with severely disturbed youths, therapists Adele and Deborah McCormick discovered the best healers were their herd of Peruvian Paso horses. Through their work with horses, the McCormicks' patients were initiated into the hidden world of animal energy and instinct, and found a safe and natural way to learn about their own dualistic natures. Patients learned to tap into their primal "animal" mind and energies and apply them toward more creative and responsible living. What took days or months to uncover in an office setting took only minutes when patients were on a horse. You will read case after fascinating case of people discarded by society and the psychiatric community whose lives were turned around by the intuitive guidance and friendship of their equine therapists. What People are saying... "This book got me. It is about personal growth and the cultivation of wisdom, and is one of the wisest contributions I have come across in years...Its implications for healing are utterly profound. Horse Sense and the Human Heart is a breakthrough work." --Larry Dossey, M.D. author Prayer is Good Medicine and Healing Words "Horse Sense and the Human Heart is an eye-opening and heartwarming adventure. In sharing their pioneering therapeutic discoveries, Adele and Deborah McCormick take us on a shamanic interspecies odyssey. They reveal a secret world governed by wise equine masters, available to help heal our psyches, and guide the human spirit on its journey toward wholeness."

***Horse Sense for People* by Monty Roberts**

A wonderful concept is poorly executed in this earnest but unsatisfying effort at self-help by the original "horse whisperer." Depicted movingly in his previous books, *The Man Who Listens to Horses* and *Shy Boy*, Roberts's work as a "horse psychologist" has demonstrated the benefits of a social order based on "trust, loyalty and mutual concern" and guided him to develop an unusual, nonviolent style of "starting" thousands of horses with the "Join-Up technique," encouraging them to accept saddle and rider. He believes that by establishing trust and building partnerships between colleagues, his approach can also succeed in today's team-oriented workplace, citing examples from his consulting with such companies as Paradyne. He also intends to show how it can work with families, especially with autistic children, and with counteracting teenage violence, although the suggested "Blackboard" method for getting cooperation from children seems too studied. Unfortunately, redundant writing and plodding sentences obscure Roberts's simple and sensible principles. It's a shame he didn't give the reins to a collaborator who might have supplied a firmer structure. Still, he's an appealing presence--a man who helped raise 47 foster children, who is passionately opposed to violence and a charming teller of horse stories, which seem more real than some of his stories about humans. Agent, Jane Turnbull (U.K.). (May) Forecast: Given the runaway successes of Roberts's other books, a five-city author tour and 20-city schedule of horse-training shows, many buyers will not be deterred by the book's flaws (*Publisher's Weekly*).

***Honest Horses: Wild Horses in the Great Basin* by Paula Morin**

Photographer and oral historian Morin became fascinated with the wild horses of the Great Basin. In an effort to understand the mustangs' place in the West's ecosystem, as well as the nature of their lives, she has wisely turned to those who have made horses their life's work, collecting 62 narratives from people like the Nevada state director for the Bureau of Land Management, cowboys, and horse adopters. What do they tell us? That wild horses are in dire situations and that solutions are difficult to implement. Animal behaviorist Temple Grandin provides a long overdue discussion of the need for humane slaughter, while others weigh in on the struggle to satisfy politicians and activists who have neither the interest nor the commitment to see the problem clearly, free of the fog of Western mythology. The firsthand knowledge of the lives of wild horses and the pressures on their environment that Morin has gathered creates an excellent and essential primer on the need for truly aiding wild horses, not just making humans feel better (*Booklist*).

***Horses: A Guide to Selection, Care and Enjoyment* by J Warren Evans**

For almost twenty years, *Horses* has been the definitive horse care manual, an indispensable reference for anyone who shows, races, breeds, or rides horses. Now *Horses* is available for the first time in paperback in a completely revised and updated new edition, offering all the latest information necessary for the competent care and recreational use of horses today. It covers every vital phase of buying, managing, enjoying, and raising horses and features a wealth of illustrations and photo sequences showing step-by-step management procedures, as well as more technical information for advanced owners. The Third Edition also reflects recent findings in health care and research

***How to Think Like a Horse* by Cherry Hill**

Ask someone who works with horses how best to communicate with a balky colt and she will tell you that horses do not respond to human cajoling. To be successful the human must understand and work with, not against, the horse's instincts, needs, and fears. When a trainer resorts to human teaching methods — reasoning, begging, bribing, even hugging and kissing — the horse will become confused and unable to respond appropriately. But if horses are treated respectfully with methods they understand, everyone involved — animal and human — will be happier, safer, and more productive. Horse trainer and instructor Cherry Hill believes that every human/horse relationship benefits from a greater human understanding of what motivates horses, how they experience the world, what makes them happy, and what worries them. Journey through the equine mind with Hill as she explores all that makes a horse tick. How do his basic needs dictate his behavior and mood? What touches and tastes appeal to his senses? How does his “flight or fight” instinct dictate his response to sudden movements? Hill offers interactive experiments — fun for both horse and human — that bear out her findings on horse behavior. And her final chapter presents simple training methods that draw from the insights and information presented throughout the book.

***If I Had a Horse: How Different Life Would Be* by Melissa Sovey-Nelson with photographs by Mark J. Barrett**

The personification of horse as mentor is explicit and the implied correlations to the female relationship are mystifying ... As you flip through the pages, the beautiful and moving horse images take you away to fields and pastures to share a moment with a special spirit ... A volume of dreams and memories to return to over and over.

***Keeping a Horse the Natural Way* by Pat Parelli**

Current and prospective horse owners will want to read this large, informative, handsomely illustrated book and keep it handy for frequent reference. They'll find detailed advice on how to work in harmony with their animal's natural instincts to make it a finer, healthier, happier specimen. The author explains how horses interact in their wild state to form herds and hierarchies, and how they communicate with one another. Understanding these traits helps owners develop an affectionate relationship with their

horse and overcome any incompatibility problems that might arise between horse and owner. The author also discusses ways to improve the stable for the mutual benefit of horse and owner, and she specifies field requirements from the horse's point of view. As every horse ages, its general needs and dietary requirements change, and it is vital that owners recognize and deal with these changes to ensure their horse's long-term health. Also discussed in detail are ways to determine the best saddles, bridles, and other equipment for the individual horse, how to recognize signs of illness, how and when to employ first-aid treatment for a horse's injuries, and which are the most effective natural remedies for a horse's various ailments. The book features more than 350 brilliant full-color photos.

***Lone Cowboy, my life story by Will James***

Dear Folks, Here's a long story for you with no names to speak of--so, you won't be bothered by the names of the creeks and cow camps you might never heard of--and of riders you wouldn't know--but if you have been in the cow country and are acquainted with the lay of it--you'll have a lot of fun recognizing the spots where I drifted thru. If you don't know the cow country I think you'll like to come out and get lost in it for a spell. You'll know it by the time you ride with me through these pages--the whole West from the far north to the south. There's more than plain riding and covering territory in this story... ..Here's a gentle horse for you. Climb on and follow me.

***Make the Most of Your Horse: The Practical Application of Collection in All Types of Riding by Jan Dickerson.***

Reader review: It is the clearest, most easily understandable book on collection I have ever read. It really filled in some gaps for me and as Gail Ivey (who recommended it to me) promised, Dickerson clearly describes the different types of collection. She empathically states that collection is found \*through\* balance. She recites the mantras of the Natural Horsemanship trainers and since this was published in 1970 I suspect she trained a few of them either through this book or in person. It is just that the phrases she uses have become familiar catch-phrases in the NH genre. The writing and structure have a gentle and lucid flavor. Should be re-printed. Reader review: I learned dressage from Jan Dickerson in the 1970s and 1980s. She was an outstanding teacher who really understood horses and was able to explain in ways that made complicated concepts easy to understand. Now, I teach lessons and work with lower level dressage riders and hunter riders and I recommend this book to everyone. Regardless to your discipline, this should be required reading!

***Natural Horse-Man-Ship: Six Keys to a Natural Horse-human Relationship by Pat Parelli***

Internationally known and respected as a horseman and clinician, Pat Parelli has helped thousands of riders understand and communicate with their horses through his Parelli Natural Horse-Man-Ship program. PNH offers riders achievable goals and measurable standards, no matter the discipline - English or western - or the activity - competitive or recreational. Pat's philosophies and concepts are based on a language of trust, leadership and respect, and a special bond between horse and human.

***Ranch Horsemanship: Traditional Cowboy Methods for the Recreational Rider by Curt Pate with Fran Devereux Smith***

Not every rider yearns to start a colt or participate in a world championship show. Yet most riders want to improve their horsemanship and their horses' performances by helping them become well-broke, seasoned, and versatile mounts, just as many ranch horses are. Ranch Horsemanship tells how almost any rider at almost any level of expertise can adapt ranch-horse-training techniques to help his mount become a safer, more enjoyable ride. Curt's step-by-step methods offer a hands-on and in-your-own-time approach well-suited for most recreational riders. His ideas help prepare you and your horse for whatever you might encounter in the round pen, arena, pasture and beyond. Curt's starting point is an overview of "Ranch Horses and Their Work," which provides a point of reference for the techniques that follow. The "Cowboy Horsemanship" section addresses six important transitions. The ability to make upward and downward transitions, move the hindquarters left and right, and move the forehead

left and right are the building blocks necessary to perform any advanced maneuver, such as a side-pass or a lead change. These six transitions also are the basics for maneuvering up- and downhill, approaching natural obstacles and dealing with manmade obstacles, such as gates or bridges, as addressed in the "Practical Applications section." In the fourth section, "Rope- and Cattle-Handling Basics," Curt helps you transfer your working-a-horse-afoot knowledge to cattle work. Even though you might never rope more than a bucket, Curt also walks you through rope-handling basics because that, too, is useful in developing a quiet, well-rounded mount. The book's final section, "Ranch Kids and Competitive Cowboys," relates how using these techniques can help children become safer, more confident riders and how cowboys use the same methods in ranch competitions. Do-it-yourself tips throughout Ranch Horsemanship give practical advice on adapting ranch-training techniques to your acreage, whatever its size.

***Ranching Traditions: The Legacy of the American West with photographs by Kathleen Jo Ryan and essays by 13 different authors***

This is a fiercely ambitious book with hundreds of color photographs, plus essays on ranch life by thirteen authors, all with established Western credentials. The photographer, Kathleen Jo Ryan, unlike many who have published books of Western photography, grew up on a ranch and knows her subject from firsthand experience. The contributing authors include the likes of Gretel Ehrlich (*The Solace of Open Spaces*), David Dary (*Cowboy Culture*), humorist, novelist, and cowboy poet Baxter Black (*Hey, Cowboy, Wanna Get Lucky*), and William Kittredge (*Hole in the Sky*). While it has many photographs that celebrate the vastness and beauty of the rural West, it also focuses on the people who own and work on ranches, identifying always the men and women who appear in the pictures and their jobs. The last section of the book is a long photo gallery of ranchers with a few words from each expressing their love of the life they have chosen. In the book's wish to represent ranch work truthfully, it goes further than similar books, with sequences of photographs showing the births of calves, some with and some without assistance. There are also sections on rodeo, entertainment, and cowboy poetry. Unlike books that chiefly romanticize the West and the life and work of the cowboy, this book has a point of view that is more related to ranch-owning and ranching as a business. Championing traditional values and opposed to the modern spread of soul-less agribusiness, it represents ranchers as they see themselves. At almost 300 pages, it's a hefty book, weighing in at about five pounds. With Kodak as a primary corporate sponsor, it's also a celebration of photography itself.

***Riding the Wild Side of Denali: Adventures with Horses and Huskies by Mike Collins and Julie Collins***

*Library Journal:* The twin Collins sisters make homesteading sound like one big adventure. Sure, they work hard; sure, they've been threatened by grizzly bears, volcanoes, muddy bogs, and frigid weather but it seems there's nothing these gals can't handle with their trusty sled dogs and Icelandic horses by their side. Raised in the Alaskan wilderness since childhood, they went to college but returned home to hunt, trap, fish, and garden, writing about their experiences in various publications. Their tales of adventure are exhilarating. Charlotte L. Glover, Ketchikan P.L., AK. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

***Riding the White Horse Home: A Western Family Album by Teresa Jordan***

Through four generations Jordan's family lived on a ranch in southeastern Wyoming. When it was sold, she felt she had lost a way of life. She attempts to resolve that loss in this charming memoir, recalling incidents in her childhood and examining the lives of female family members. We meet Jordan's paternal grandmother ("a difficult woman"), her mother and her great-aunt--all women who had to accept difficult lives that included hard physical labor and its attendant dangers. Noting the decline of the family farm, Jordan regrets that our culture teaches us to value a professional life more than one tied to the land. Her community, Iron Mountain, numbers 30 today, down from a population of 2000 a century ago.

***She Flies Without Wings: How Horses Touch a Woman's Soul*, Mary D. Midkiff**

Although author and longtime equestrian Mary Midkiff once presented a straightforward book on women and horses (*Fitness, Performance and the Female Equestrian*), she now explores the more ethereal terrain of this compelling feminine attraction. "Women and horse have always been drawn to one another," Midkiff writes. "They rode together in Greek myth and Celtic poem, Native American legend and Wild West folktales.... Women and horses emerge in life and literature as a huge tribe of spiritual sisters." (In fact, more than one million girls and women are involved in horse-related activities in the U.S. alone.) Midkiff spent years researching this exquisitely written book that loosely mirrors the arc of a women's life. Using her life story as the backdrop, Midkiff shows how horses nurture feminine development. For example, the freedom to roam the earth on horseback liberates the dreams and ambitions of a young girl. Or how an affinity with horses can help awaken a teenager's emerging sensuality. And when women reach full adulthood, horses help women stay compassionate and spiritually grounded. This is a highly recommended book for older teens (15 and up) and women who value the equestrian relationship as much as the riding (Amazon.com).

***Shy Boy: The Horse that Came in from the Wild* by Monty Roberts**

Not just for animal lovers, this delightful and deeply moving page-turner, a sequel to Roberts's bestselling *The Man Who Listens to Horses*, picks up the story of this California horse trainer's relationship with Shy Boy, a wild mustang whom he "gentled." By mimicking an equine body language that he believes is genetically ingrained in the memory of all horses, Roberts, as detailed in his earlier book, quickly and painlessly transformed Shy Boy from a free-roaming steed of the Nevada foothills into a trusting, cooperative and worthy mount. Roberts's nonviolent approach to acclimating horses to saddle, bridle and rider was highlighted in 1997 and 1998 in a PBS-aired BBC documentary, which led countless viewers to inquire: If given the chance to be free again, would Shy Boy take it and run? Here is the answer to that question: Roberts describes taking Shy Boy back to his original free-range herd. The mustang's choice after an overnight romp makes for an unforgettable climax that will leave no dry eyes. Shy Boy, a mix of vigor, strength, innocence, ego and impish high spirits, will win readers' hearts, while Roberts's humane alternative to the harsh treatment of horses holds inspirational lessons about the abuse we inflict on animals and on our fellow humans. Dydyk's breathtaking color photographs capture the rugged majestic terrain while exploring, without sentimentality, the spirit of nobility and freedom that the horse represents in America's collective psyche. Plainspoken yet powerful, this remarkable story is one of those very rare books that can restore one's faith in humanity.

***Some Horses: Literary Essays* by Thomas McGuane**

Since his arrival as a novelist and essayist in the late 1960s, Thomas McGuane's elegant and muscular prose has left its print on the trail of American letters, exploring the American landscape and exposing the American heart. In the nine finely tooled essays that make up *Some Horses*, McGuane explores and exposes his own passionately layered relationship to the cutting horses he rides and works on his Montana ranch. The author's admiration for his four-legged characters is displayed with perceptive wit and clear affection: "If a horse were a Ford," he suggests, "the species would vanish beneath lawsuits engendered by consumer-protection laws." As both participant and observer, McGuane makes sure his readers feel the unique intimacy of the man-horse relationship. "We have saturated the horse with our emotions," he writes. "Yet, a lover of horses has nothing to prove and no expertise to reveal. It is important that we find animals to love, and that is the end of the story." Actually, for McGuane it's just the beginning. Moving with introspection and grace, he kicks up plenty of dust, description, and insight in essays that probe the intricacies of riding horses, working horses, caring for horses, breeding horses, and competing on them in the roping and displays he so loves. In the magical "A Foal," he contrasts the anxiety of a favorite mare's overdue pregnancy with the joy that finally attends the successful introduction of a healthy newborn into the fold. Also scattered through the collection are marvelous

insights into the writer's life--and, in one particular passage, the hands that have produced his life's work: "I looked at my hand, crooked thumb, rope burns, enlarged knuckles, and I felt good because I'd always been afraid that, as a writer, I would always have these Ivory Snow hands." But it's the *bigger* picture that ultimately interests McGuane: "The open range, the open sea, the open sky, the open wounds of the heart, that's where writers shine."

***The Body Language of the Horse* by Tom Ainslee and Bonnie Ledbetter**

Horses communicate with remarkable accuracy in a language of posture, gesture and sound. They express their needs, wishes and emotions to each other and to the rare human being who understands them. After reading this unprecedented, exciting and up-lifting book, you will understand the equine language. You therefore will know how to recognize: A happy horse. A frightened horse. An angry horse. A bored horse. A grieving horse. A frustrated horse. A horse in pain. A playful horse. A proud horse. An eagerly competitive horse. Understand what these grand animals are all about, and you will know better than ever before how they (and we) fit into nature's scheme of things.

***The Emotional Lives of Animals* by Marc Bekoff and Jane Goodall**

Any dog owner knows that her own pet has feelings, but what evidence exists beyond the anecdotal, and what does this evidence teach us? Bekoff, professor emeritus of biology at the University of Colorado, pores through decades of animal research-behavioral, neurochemical, psychological and environmental-to answer that question, compelling readers to accept both the existence and significance of animal emotions. Seated in the most primitive structures of the brain (pleasure receptors, for example, are biologically correlative in all mammals), emotions have a long evolutionary history. Indeed, as vertebrates became more complex, they developed ever more complex emotional and social lives, "setting rules" that permit group living-a far better survival strategy than going solo. Along the way, Bekoff forces the reader to re-examine the nature of human beings; our species could not have persevered through the past 100,000 years without the evolution of strong and cohesive social relationships cemented with emotions, a conclusion contrary to contemporary pop sociology notions that prioritize individualism and competition. He also explores, painfully but honestly, the abuse animals regularly withstand in factory farms, research centers and elsewhere, and calls on fellow scientists to practice their discipline with "heart." Demonstrating the far-reaching implications for readers' relationships with any number of living beings, Bekoff's book is profound, thought-provoking and even touching.

***The Essential Paul Belasik: a compilation of three books, Riding Towards the Light; Exploring Dressage Technique; and The Songs of Horses, by one of the world's classical dressage masters, Paul Belasik***

Paul Belasik wrote the first part of his acclaimed trilogy, *Riding Towards the Light*, in the late 1980s. It is a compelling account of his personal struggle to discover the ultimate "truths" of classical riding. He traveled thousands of miles to observe the latter-day masters, spent countless hours practicing in the saddle, and researched centuries-worth of equestrian literature seeking the wisdom of the great riding masters of the past. Book Two of the trilogy, *Exploring Dressage Technique*, was published in 1994 and recounts Belasik's study of the biomechanics and philosophy of riding and training horses, offering chapters that include A Fog of Walks, The Hovering Trot, and Riding as a Meditation. The author concluded his work of discovery with *The Songs of Horses* in 1999, in which he uses storytelling to communicate valuable lessons on the art of riding to teachers and pupils. Now, for the first time, this masterful trilogy has been published in single volume. Paul Belasik lives and trains at his farm in Pennsylvania.

***The Faraway Horses* by Buck Brannaman**

"Buck Brannaman is part of a lineage of skilled horsemen, and for the horses he works with, it is about trust and understanding, not submission." --Robert Redford "When it comes to horses, Buck Brannaman is part guru, part psychologist, and all cowboy. He's a 19th -century man in a 21st-century world, and his life is at once inspirational and instructive." --Tom Brokaw. "Buck Brannaman is no ordinary horseman. He is demonstrating his way of turning frightened horses into friends, a way that has more to do with respect and trust than mastery or manhandling."--*Smithsonian* magazine.

***The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz F. Mikel Carmon**

Sit at the foot of a native elder and listen as great wisdom of days long past is passed down. In *The Four Agreements* shamanic teacher and healer Don Miguel Ruiz exposes self-limiting beliefs and presents a simple yet effective code of personal conduct learned from his Toltec ancestors. Full of grace and simple truth, this handsomely designed book makes a lovely gift for anyone making an elementary change in life, and it reads in a voice that you would expect from an indigenous shaman. The four agreements are these: Be impeccable with your word. Don't take anything personally. Don't make assumptions. Always do your best. It's the how and why one should do these things that make *The Four Agreements* worth reading and remembering

***The Healing Touch of Horses* edited by A. Bronwyn Llewellyn**

Begin your own healing journey with this collection of heartwarming stories full of inspiration and hope. These courageous people and their wonderful companions prove that time and a compassionate horse can improve almost any situation, no matter how dire. Perhaps you will also be inspired to find a horse healer of your own, no matter whether you buy one, borrow one, or volunteer at a therapeutic riding center in your area . . . you, too, will experience the enriching, magical healing power of horses for yourself. We humans have a very unique relationship with horses; a relationship that can transform our lives for the better. In *The Healing Touch of Horses*, you'll find fifty stories that celebrate this powerful bond and pay tribute to the healing power of these very special animals.

***The Man Who Listen to Horses* by Monty Roberts**

Monty Roberts is, as they say, the *real* horse whisperer--even if he does revile the last third of Nicholas Evans's romance. Yet Roberts also makes clear from the start that listening and close attention have more to do with gentling an animal than soi-disant whispering. As far as he's concerned, silent communication can "effectively cross over the boundary between human (the ultimate fight animal) and horse (the flight animal). Using their language, their system of communication, I could create a strong bond of trust. I would achieve cross-species communication." And achieve it he does. After one short session, he has even the wildest stallion nickering with ungulate abandon. Roberts's descriptions of "joining up," as he calls it with horses--as well as with the deer who cavort on his California farm like so many hyperintelligent Bambis--are inspirational in the best sense of the word. Surprisingly, though, it took him long years to persuade most of the humans in his life that pain and punishment are not the way to go. Indeed, the author expends many a page on past mistakes and disasters, familial and professional. Yet *The Man Who Listens to Horses* remains a powerfully positive document--and not just for Mr. Ed. Best of all, when it comes to his life's work, Roberts is far more practical than mystical. Instead of portraying himself as Equus's messiah, he'd rather share his hard-won knowledge. Having overcome years of rejection and ridicule, the author is certainly not short in the self-esteem department, as some passages in this book demonstrate. No matter. He always checks his ego before entering the corral (Amazon.com).

***The Mythology of Horses: Horse Legend and Lore Throughout the Ages* by Gerald and Loretta Hausman**

An extraordinary collection of myths and facts about horses, their honored place in human history, and the mystique that has surrounded them in cultures around the globe. Horses have always held a

mystical sway over the human imagination; no other creature has inspired the same reverence or cross-cultural fascination. The *Mythology of Horses* offers a comprehensive look at horse breeds around the world, exploring their heritage, physical attributes, and place in human society, as well as the folklore, popular mythology, and true stories surrounding each breed. In this evocative, one-of-a-kind reference, folklorists Gerald and Loretta Hausman present stories from breeders, Olympic equestrians, and cowboys, along with tales about famous horse owners from Buffalo Bill to Roy Rogers, Genghis Khan to Napoleon. Vividly capturing the aura that has surrounded horses throughout time, this collection will fascinate horse lovers of all kinds.

### ***The Nature of Horses* by Stephen Budiansky**

Horse riders, trainers, and others who spend their daily lives in the company of horses will appreciate this in-depth study of equine behavior and its origins. Science writer Budiansky begins by examining the environment and circumstances to which the horse has adapted throughout its long evolution, presenting evidence that much of the horse's behavior is genetic rather than learned. A full chapter is devoted to the development of the horse's relationship with humans over the centuries, and another outlines a breeding program that could produce a superior performance horse. This book will appeal to professionals and horse fanciers seeking a thorough understanding of horse behavior. For academic equine collections and public libraries where interest warrants.

### ***The Soul of a Horse: Life Lessons from the Herd* by Joe Camp**

A surprise birthday gift plunged Joe Camp and his wife, Kathleen, into the world of horses as complete neophytes without a clue as to what horses needed or wanted. The Camps went searching for logic and sense in the rule books of traditional horse care and what they found was not what they had expected. Written for everyone who has ever loved a horse or even loved the idea of having a horse in their lives, this memoir leads us on a riveting voyage of discovery as Joe and Kathleen navigate uncharted, often politically incorrect territory on their way to achieving a true relationship with their horses. As the creator of the beloved Benji series, Joe has spent most of his life luring us into the heart and soul of a famous dog, but now in this engaging, emotional, and often humorous story, he deftly lures us into the heart and soul of a horse. In doing so, he exposes astonishing truths and unlocks the mystery of a majestic creature who has survived on Earth, without assistance, for fifty-five million years. In a single emotionally charged moment, Camp communes with his first horse, Cash, in a way that changes him and his relationship with horses forever. In his own words, as he stood alone with his back to this horse: *The collar of my jacket was tickling the hairs on the back of my neck. And my heart was pounding. Then a puff of warm, moist air brushed my ear. My heart skipped a beat. He was really close. Then I felt his nose on my shoulder . . . I couldn't believe it. Tears came out of nowhere and streamed down my cheeks. I had spoken to him in his own language, and he had listened . . . and he had chosen to be with me. He had said, I trust you.* Ingeniously alternating between the stories of two people thrust into an unfamiliar, enigmatic realm and a fabled herd of wild horses brought to the New World centuries ago, Joe Camp's valuable and inspiring book teaches us that the lessons he was learning apply not only to his horses but to life and to people as well—to all of us.

### ***The Tao of Equus* by Linda Kohanov**

*The Tao of Equus*, which literally translates as "the way of the horse," explores the possibility that horses are highly evolved, spiritual beings who offer humans opportunities for healing and personal growth. Linda Kohanov is the owner of Epona Equestrian Services, an Arizona-based collective of trainers and counselors that explore the therapeutic potential of equestrian pursuits. Although she does discuss horse training and horse behavior, Kohanov is most interested in what horses can teach us. Moving beyond the realm of horse whispering, Kohanov studies how horses awaken intuition in humans while also mirroring our unspoken feelings and fears. At its core, this book reminds us to be mindful as we approach the horse-human relationship. Like human-to-human relationships, we have to

do our own personal and spiritual work before we can expect to create a meaningful and cooperative interspecies connection. Kohanov is a steadfast writer who isn't shy about claiming a strong feminine approach, showing how mythology and history are filled with examples of powerful woman-horse connections. She also has the courage to reveal her paranormal experiences with these intensely emotional and intuitive animals--stories that may sound familiar to anyone who has ever loved and dreamed of horses.

**Touched by a Horse: Equine Coaching Stories edited by Melisa Pearce**

Prepare to be touched and inspired by the stories and poems from *Touched by a Horse* Equine Gestalt Coaching Method graduates and students about the healing and transformation this work has to offer, not only to the clients who work with the coaches, but to the coaches themselves. Melisa Pearce is the founder of Touched by a Horse® and creator of the Equine Gestalt Coaching Method®. As a result of many requests to share her knowledge and method, the Equine Gestalt Coaching Method (EGCM) Certification Program began in 2008. Today she has students and graduates throughout North America. Melisa is author of the Amazon best-selling inspiration deck, *Whispers from a Horse's Heart*, in collaboration with artist Jan Taylor.

**Turning Challenging Horses Into Willing Partners/Horse and Horse Sense by Nanette Levine**

Books and CD series. "*Turning Challenging Horses into Willing Partners* is a refreshing book written in an honest and straightforward fashion that many riders will appreciate. It starts off exploring the challenges horses present, and their root causes, and goes on to explain how to deal with those common issues. Included are tips from top professionals such as Denny Emerson, Jutta Heinsohn and Kels Bonham ..."

**What's the most Beautiful Thing About Horses by Richard Van Camp**

In this slim volume, Van Camp, a member of the Dogrib nation from Canada's Northwest Territories, asks the titular question of friends and family members to gain knowledge of horses. Addressing readers as "partners," the author explains that he is a stranger to horses, for in his often frosty homeland "All's we had up here were dogs." In a voice that moves awkwardly between that of cowboy and poet, the narrator imagines what he'd ask a horse: "Do horses think fireworks are strange flowers blooming in the sky?"; "When horses and dogs talk to each other, what do you think they say?" He then returns to the question posed in the book's title, and the answers he receives form a curious pastiche of impressions, ranging from his mother's comment that horses "must have secrets. When they run they seem to flow over the land" to a buddy's response that he doesn't like horses because "you feel great all day when you ride them but after that you feel bowlegged." Littlechild, who collaborated with Van Camp on *A Man Called Raven*, conveys a similarly capricious quality in his boldly hued paintings. An array of stylized images of equines and canines cavorting in living rooms and over rooftops as well as the more expected nature scenes incorporate stars and stripes, hearts and horseshoes. Despite the inviting, folksy tone, the book's strongly personal focus and frequently ambiguous meanderings make its potential audience difficult to determine. Ages 6-up.

**Why We Ride: Women Writers on the Horses in their Lives** edited by Verna Dreisbach

Women and their horses — a symbiotic relationship based on trust, camaraderie, friendship, and love. In *Why We Ride*, Verna Dreisbach collects the stories of women who ride, sharing their personal emotions and accounts of the most important animals in their lives. This collection of stories includes the heartfelt thoughts of a range of women — those who rode as children, those who spent their girlhood years dreaming of owning a pony, and those who have made a lifelong hobby or career out of riding. Each story reveals how horses have made an impact in the lives of these women. With a

foreword by best-selling novelist Jane Smiley, *Why We Ride* offers a reflective view on the relationships between women and horses.

***Wild About Horses: Our Timeless Passion for the Horse* by Lawrence Scanlan**

Scanlan, who has published two books about horses in Canada, explores the cultural significance of our love of horses from various perspectives that range from the historical to the mythological. Recounting epic horseback journeys, profiling famous horses in sports, literature, and film, and detailing other aspects of the horse-human connection, Scanlan's book is neither dry nor overanalyzed, and his writing style is effortless, conversational, and sometimes moving. Scanlan's status as a relative newcomer in the equine world makes *Wild About Horses* understandable and entertaining to readers who are not yet well versed in horse lore, but his obvious passion and thorough research make his book valuable and entertaining to the experienced equestrian as well. Review by *Library Journal*.

***Wild Horses I Have Known* by Hope Ryden**

Grade 4 Up-This fascinating photo-essay is a study of the wild mustangs of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range located along the Wyoming-Montana border. Ryden has spent years observing these horses, and this book is a tribute to their spirit and beauty. As the author lovingly describes the actions and behaviors of individual animals, she affords readers a real voyage into their everyday lives. She discusses where wild horses came from, what happened to them during westward expansion in this century and the last, grazing rights, and land-use issues. Explanations of the animals' complex social structures and survival methods are greatly enhanced by the stunning, full-color photography. Single- and sometimes double-page photos appear in sections after each chapter; they range from close-up shots of a mother and foal to broader perspectives with breathtaking background vistas. The last chapter describes the colors and markings found in wild horses, complete with photographs. Libraries that own Alvin Silverstein's *The Mustang* (Millbrook, 1997) will still want to purchase this one for its far superior pictures and riveting text (*School Library Journal*).

***Zen and Horses* by Ingrid Soren**

"What a lovely book! Not only for those of us who know the special magic of time spent with horses, but for anyone navigating a journey of self-discovery and understanding."--Tami Hoag, best-selling author of *Dust to Dust* and champion amateur Grand Prix dressage rider.

## Hybrids – Fiction and Nonfiction

***Unbridled: The Western Horse in Fiction and Nonfiction*: edited by Michael Engelhard**

Native American myths, songs, and rituals speak of people's longstanding reverence for an animal re-introduced to the Americas by the Spanish, an animal that has become symbolic of The Frontier, like the bison, grizzly, or wolf. More than just a means of transportation, the Western horse has powered our imagination. It has transcended divisions of race, class, age, and gender, to become an American icon. Popular culture and countless works of art have immortalized it. Without it, the West would be impoverished, lacking in the stories that continue to shape our identity. *Unbridled* is the first literary compilation focusing entirely on this tough and charismatic breed. Edited by outdoors educator and horseman Michael Engelhard, it represents the best of equestrian writing with contributions by ranchers, cowboys, wranglers, artists, journalists, soldiers, vaqueros, Native Americans, Western women, and even a president. This is a book for enthusiasts of wide-open spaces and the people and creatures inhabiting them.

***The Greatest Horse Stories Ever Told* edited by Steven D. Price**

Price, an equestrian writer, provides an excellent justification for a new anthology of horse stories by pointing out that all the stories help us to see ourselves in relation to horses. In 30 short stories, essays, and articles, the reader is led to a greater understanding of the bond between horse and rider. The bond can be monetary, as Dick Francis shows in his humorous contribution about a botched attempt at robbing a racecourse—or was it botched? The union between a beloved horse and his longtime rider is explored in Jane Smiley's essay on the death of her favorite mount. James Herriot writes of the inevitable changes to farm life with the passing of the age of draft horses, and Gene Smith shows us the wonder of a once-crippled horse, intended for the racetrack, that now teaches handicapped kids to ride. An essay on the death of Secretariat is a guaranteed weeper (*Booklist*).

### **The Best of James Herriot by James Herriot**

James Herriot's books include *All Creatures Great and Small*, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, *All Things Wise and Wonderful*, *The Lord God Made Them All*, and *Every Living Thing*, all now available as St. Martin's paperbacks. His Yorkshire, England, veterinary practice is now tended by his son, Jim Wight.

## **POETRY**

### ***All this Way for the Short Ride* by Paul Zarzyski with photos by Barbara Van Cleve**

It's been said that the partnering of these two is a match made in heaven or, better yet, in Montana. Wherever the origin, readers from both the literati world and, as Paul lovingly refers to it, the *lariati arena*, have celebrated—from rollicking humor to reverent pathos. This collection of poems and photos pays tribute to the wildest and woolliest 1-8-second trip we all make as human beings forked to the bronc called Planet Earth.

### ***Graining the Mare: The Poetry of Ranch Women***

Editing and photography by Teresa Jordan. Includes poems by well-known, and not-so-well known western ranch women, including Jane Candia Coleman, Laurie Wagner Buyer, Peggy Simson Curry, Linda Hasselstrom, Gretel Ehrlich, Luci Tapahonso, and Linda Hogan.

### ***Say This of Horses: A Selection of Poems* edited by C.E. Greer and Jenny Kander**

Containing more than a hundred poems by seventy-four poets of twenty-two nationalities, *Say This of Horses* represents the abundance of poems about horses that have been written throughout the ages and around the world. Whether probing the ages-old connection between horses and humans, the immediate physical presence of horses, or the metaphysical elements of these magnificent animals, this collection celebrates the horse as what Maxine Kumin calls “our enduring myth, the repository for our love and terror.” Divided into six sections, *Say This of Horses* considers horses in a multitude of times and places. “Antiquity” explores the forging of the earliest mythical ties between horses and humans. “Here, Now” places horses in the present, where their physical presence is most acutely felt. “Essence” explores the metaphysical qualities of horses. “Harnessed” contains a selection of poems about horses in war, at work, and in sport and recreation. “Mirrors” shows them as imaginative symbols. Finally, “Lenses” moves into the realm of abstraction and fantasy. The selections within this far-reaching collection are joyous, moving, erudite, and at times profoundly sad. Poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, W. S. Merwin, Tess Gallagher, Yusef Komunyakaa, Pablo Neruda, Anne Sexton, Wallace Stevens, May Sarton, Jane Kenyon, and James Dickey, among many others, are sure to delight and surprise readers familiar with or just exploring the rich literature on horses. Contributors include: Guillaume Apollinaire, Gwendolyn Brooks, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, C.E. Greer, Donald Hall, Joy Harjo, Imru’ al-Qays, Ted Kooser, Philip Larkin, Ann McCarthy de Zavala, Rainer Maria Rilke, Patiann Rogers, William Carlos Williams.

***The Ghost of the Mounties* by Sean O'Huigin and David R. Godine, 1983.**

In this narrative poem, a storm overwhelms the Royal Canadian Mounties, scattering their horses in all directions and resulting in the mysterious disappearance of one horse.

## HORSE ARTISTS and ART BOOKS

**Lisa Gordon, Santa Fe artist:** "I haven't read much about horses as an adult, but my most constant reading activity from age 8 to 12 or so was reading an old book of horses we had at home in Denver. Wide square pages, brown hard cover, with a wonderful full page picture of each breed on the right side and a good informative and enjoyable text for each on the left. I sat hours and hours paging through reading about the different breeds. Most of what I ever learned about breeds comes from there...I still can feel the peaceful engrossed pleasure of it...otherwise I drew and sketched horses and drew them again... My favorite horse artist is Lisa Gordon of Santa Fe. She does tiny as well as monumental bronze sculptures of horses in all kinds of expressive states and movement.... [www.lisagordonsculptures.com](http://www.lisagordonsculptures.com)" ~ Rae Taylor, L&L retreat 2010.

***The Horse in Art* by John Baskett**

A new edition of a long out-of-print gem, *The Horse in Art* brings artistic representation of the horse to life, with additional illustrations, a new chapter on the 20th century, and the inclusion of biographies of the artists featured in the book. With beautiful color reproductions and an accessible text, this book is a unique and indispensable guide to the changing cultural perspectives, artistic styles, and symbolic interpretations associated with its timeless and much-loved subject.

**Look up these artists online: Rosa Bonheur, Sybil Hill, Sarah Rogers, Susan Bell**

**Miscellaneous Titles** (no product descriptions available on Amazon.com, or last minute additions)

***The Fellowship of the Horse* by Lieut. Col. S. G. Goldschmidt**

Charles Scribner's Sons, London. *Fellowship of the Horse* has beautiful artwork (pencil drawings) and was published in 1930. Author ahead of his time on horsemanship ideas. Look online for used books.

**Novels by Cormac McCarthy, Larry McMurtry, and Annie Proulx**

**Equibooks.com:** a large and carefully chosen selection of fine horse books and horse DVDs, horse videos and CDs. In our effort to offer quality books about modern horsemanship, horse communication, training and riding, we import, distribute and publish select new and old titles.

***Communicating with Cues: Rider's Guide to Training and Problem Solving* by John Lyons**

***Ruffian: A Race Track Romance* by William Nack**

***The Track: A day in the life of Belmont Park* by William Surface**

***The Encyclopedia of Horses and Ponies* by Tamsin Pickeral**

***What Horses Reveal: From First Meeting to Friend for Life* by Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling**

***Hoofbeats and Society: Studies of Human-Horse Interactions* Lawrence, Elizabeth Atwood**

***Adam's Task, Calling Animals by Name* (training, philosophy, literary) by Vicki Hearne**

***Horses in America: a history of American horses and their riders from Eohippus of prehistory to rodeos of today* by Francis Haines**

***When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals* by JM Masson and S McCarthy**

***American Indian Myths and Legends* by R Erdoes and A Ortiz**