

30 Best Horse Books

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Here are 30 great horse books.

Just Horses: Living With Horses In America

By Margot Page

Beautiful images capture the spirit of the horse from quirky publisher Willow Creek Press.

Gypsy From Nowhere

By Sharon Wagner

Wendy meets Gypsy, a filly who needs Wendy as much as Wendy needs her.

Happy Horsemanship

By Dorothy Henderson Pinch

This child's guide to equitation, written from a horse's point of view with charming, humorous illustrations.

Chestnut Mare Beware

By Jody Jaffe

Reporter Nattie Gold and her show hunter Brenda Starr take on a murder mystery exposé in Virginia hunt country.

Heads Up, Heels Down

By C.W. Anderson

A classic introductory riding guide.

Saddle Club Series

By Bonnie Bryant

Horse-loving best friends share enough riding adventures at Pine Hollow to fill more than 100 books.

Riders

By Jilly Cooper

File also under "trashy novel"—a guilty pleasure about show jumping, scandal and seduction.

Secretariat: The Making of a Champion

By William Nack

This 1975 biography of Triple Crown Winner Secretariat was updated in 2002.

Ride Like an Indian

By Henry V. Laron

Native American wisdom helps a pair of dude ranch misfits.

Hunter Seat Equitation

By George H. Morris

The Bible, written by the master of the sport.

National Velvet

By Enid Bagnold

A teenage girl wins a horse in a raffle, trains it, and rides it in the Grand National steeplechase.

The Black Stallion

By Walter Farley

Shipwrecked on an island together, an Arabian horse and a boy bond. Once rescued, they go on to win a match race against the top Thoroughbreds in the nation.

A Leg at Each Corner

By Norman Thelwell

Nothing is cuter, or more mischievous, than a Thelwell pony in the hilarious cartoon "guide to equitation."

Seabiscuit

By Laura Hillenbrand

Modern day masterpiece about the small colt who became an American racing legend when the country needed him most.

Misty of Chincoteague

By Marguerite Henry

At the annual Pony Penning roundup, Misty becomes the beloved pet of two children and a beloved icon of horse loving children everywhere.

Summer Pony

By Jean Slaughter Doty

Ginny brings a pony home for the summer, but shaggy, spotted Mokey is not the sleek show pony she envisioned.

A Very Young Rider

By Jill Krementz

Who didn't want to be Vivi Malloy in the '70s? Follow Vivi and her pony Ready Penny on the A-circuit, in photos.

Hank and Chloe

By Jo-Ann Mapson

An urban modern western with romance between a hard-headed horsewoman and a mild-mannered professor.

The Stone Pony

By Patricia Calvert

JoBeth spends time with her late sister's horse, Riono, and learns she and her sister weren't as different as she thought.

Klimke on Dressage

By Reiner Klimke

The master of dressage illustrates the ideal development of a horse through the levels.

Horse Heaven

By Jane Smiley

This character-driven novel takes the reader on a wild ride from California to Kentucky to Paris with the high stakes game of horse racing.

Old Bones the Wonder Horse

By Mildred Mastin Pace

The true story of 1918 Kentucky Derby winner Exterminator.

The Horsemasters

By Don Stanford

A group of young riders pursue British Horse Society certification in England and bond over the grueling experience

Odds Against

By Dick Francis

We selected this one for its hero, the one handed jockey turned private investigator Sid Halley.

Ruffian, Burning from the Start

By Jane Schwartz

The life and tragic end of the filly who captured America's heart in the mid 1970s.

Smoky the Cowhorse

By Will James

Smoky survives the hardships of life on the range, partners up with cowboy Clint of the Rocking R Ranch, and even serves a brief stint as a rodeo bronc.

My Friend Flicka

By Mary O'Hara

A young boy struggles to please his domineering father and finds solace in gaining the trust of a filly.

Centered Riding

By Sally Swift

Creative visualization for better riding.

True Unity

By Tom Dorrance

The first and last word on natural horse training, from one of the men who started it all in modern times.

Black Beauty

By Anna Sewell

Told straight from the horse's mouth, Black Beauty's tumultuous life in Victorian England. One of the first books to deal with the welfare of the horse.