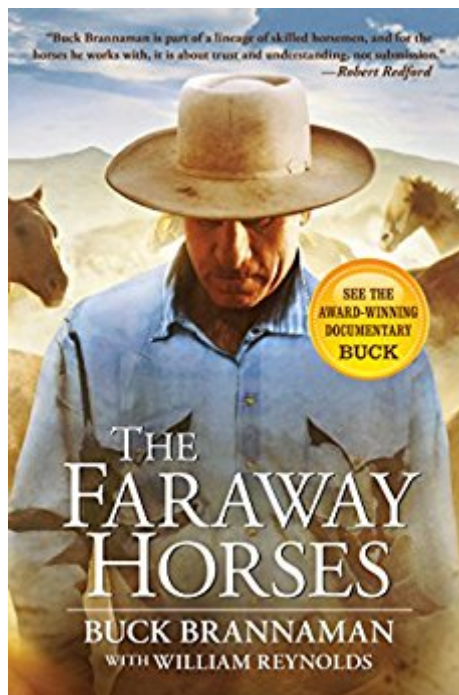




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Faraway Horses: The Adventures And Wisdom Of One Of America's Most Renowned Horsemen



Synopsis

"I've started horses since I was 12 years old and have been bit, kicked, bucked off and run over. I've tried every physical means to contain my horse in an effort to keep from getting myself killed. I started to realize that things would come much easier for me once I learned why a horse does what he does. This method works well for me because of the kinship that develops between horse and rider. " --Buck Brannaman

In *THE FARAWAY HORSES*, Brannaman shares his methods for training and provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Robert Redford's movie *The Horse Whisperer*, for which he was the technical advisor. *Authoritative figure in horsemanship* Reveals the key to understanding animals

BUCK BRANNAMAN is a horse gentler--not a horse "breaker"--who has started more than 10,000 young horses in his clinics. He lives with his family in Sheridan, Wyoming.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS is the associate publisher of *Cowboys & Indians* magazine. He lives with his family in Santa Ynez, California.

Book Information

File Size: 2558 KB

Print Length: 288 pages

Publisher: Lyons Press; 1 edition (July 1, 2003)

Publication Date: July 30, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00MJDA290

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #268,469 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #88

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Animal Care & Pets > Horses #120

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Animal Care & Pets > Essays #150

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Horses > Equestrian

Customer Reviews

I would give this book and its contents a 10 STAR rating. What Buck has done revolutionized horse training and mankind's understanding of the mind and personality of horses. His own background of

abuse helped him see the same things being done to terrorize and abuse animals/horses. His work and kindness to horses developed an understanding and trust between beasts and their owners that is of tremendous importance to all who work with horses or who love to see and appreciate their beauty. While working with horses, he learned how to work with different personalities of people and how to treat his fellowman/woman as well. Well done Buck. Your life's work is invaluable and will last for centuries. P.S. I am not a horse owner nor a particularly great horse lover. I just loved how he came to understand and treat horses. He is a humanitarian.

If you have no concept of common sense, or right from wrong, you probably won't like this book. Because Mr. Brannaman is a master of common sense, has a clear and ready moral compass that he actually uses, and possesses another quality sorely missing in vast portions of today's society -- integrity -- his books are entertaining while being educational. (The educational part gets slipped in -- no memorization required or sermons given.) I discovered Buck Brannaman when my sister drug me to a movie I'd never heard of called "Buck." I was instantly hooked on all things Brannaman. I'd love to someday be able to attend one of his clinics, even though I don't own horses. We had horses when I was a kid, and I've always had a soft spot for critters of all kinds, but Buck Brannaman's affinity with horses translates to an affinity with all critters, be they 4-legged or 2. A very satisfying read.

good story The story was good enough I went to his clinic. Huge mistake. What a jerk and he taught me nothing. I walked out the second morning. The whole group was out of control. He was condescending and rude. He jerked my horses head around and scared her. He spends most of his time telling stories about himself and not teaching anything. For long stretches of time he just rides around not saying anything. My friend went with me and I also learned nothing. The clinic was \$700 plus camping and getting there. I can't believe this is how he makes a living. He's a drunk with a God complex. Save your money and time.

Buck Brannaman is a true master--I started to say "American" master, but his humanity transcends nationality. He is a gift in my life, a translator of the divine language that can come through the horse if you can learn to hear it. Buck's message, and the message of the horse, as Buck relays it, is not just about what we usually think of as "horsemanship." More than that, it's a tutorial for inhabiting the planet in a kinder, gentler, more hopeful, more vital way, about letting the horse teach us how to be a better human. To the extent that the creative force of the Universe has something "in mind," this

must be it. In these pages I find a much more sacred endeavor than using the horse as humanity historically has. Buck Brannaman, to me, is an alchemist if ever there was one. How does one transform the pain and tragedy of life into fulfillment and contribution? Read "The Faraway Horses" and see what you think.

"Horses and life - it's all the same to me." -Buck Brannaman

The Faraway Horses is a courageous and deeply moving autobiographical account of Buck Brannaman's painful childhood along with the enduring lessons he learned from his foster family and the legendary equestrian, Ray Hunt. Buck describes his life after the heartbreaking failure of his first marriage and the redemption found in the true love of his second. He recounts the experiences of his life in a beautiful simple language that does not embellish or seek sympathy. Buck is clearly telling his life as he lived it with the understanding that anyone who follows his story may gain certain insight into their own life. From his humble beginnings in Sheboygan, Washington and later moving to other Northwestern states, Buck explains that despite the loss of his mother and his abusive alcoholic father that he and his brother barely escaped from, he refuses to allow this to reflect on his spirit. "Adults are given a free choice. When you grow up, you can't blame your inadequacies on your father for having been mean to you, for having whipped you. You have to take responsibility for what you are and where you are headed." Buck's compassion for horses is expressed wholeheartedly in his writing. He feels strongly that horses live in the humans' world and are therefore dependent on us. "A human must be responsible for himself and his horse. When you succeed in both of those areas, life will be pleasant for you as well as for everyone around you." Buck creates parallels between how someone properly trains a horse and the way he and his brother grew up after they left their father, Ace Brannaman. Buck and his brother are finally given direction by their foster parents, the Shirleys, who provide the kindness they so desperately need to gain confidence in themselves. Buck continues to learn about horses on the Shirleys' ranch where he sees the necessity of discipline. "It's the precursor to good behavior, and it never comes from bad behavior." Buck's descriptions about his mentor Ray Hunt are mesmerizing. The respect that he shows from the very start comes across as adoration of this great horseman and his incredible abilities. Buck begins to learn how to communicate with horses by understanding them and reading their body language. As with horses, Buck explains the necessity of communicating with people as well. For Buck it really comes down to the priceless skill of being a good listener. Buck also learns some of his most important lessons working with people. He steadfastly tried to nurse his first wife, Audrey, back to health after a massive brain hemorrhage. He quietly and gently remained by her side during her long recovery. Although the final outcome of

Audrey's fall was divorce, Buck found solace in an amazing horse named Bif and the two became lifelong friends and teachers to one another. During this chapter I reflected on just how important horses have always been in my own life. Buck begins to fulfill his lifelong dream of giving clinics on how to train horses using the techniques he learned both from watching Ray Hunt, and from his own experience. Although he had to overcome his fear of public speaking, Buck was soon sought after for his unique style of 'whispering' to horses. Buck often has a harder time understanding the horses' owners than he ever does the horses themselves. Eventually Buck met a woman named Mary at one of his clinics. He considered her the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. The reader cannot help but feel his personal fulfillment in life in connecting with this woman who is clearly his soul-mate and best friend. The book concludes with an awe-inspiring description of Buck working on the set of the movie "The Horse Whisperer." It was easy to understand why Robert Redford wanted to make a movie about Buck after reading the many conversations they had on the movie set. Learning about the kind of equestrian Brannaman is, you also learn the quality of his strong personal character. After reading this book you will not doubt that having heart and having a good relationship with your horse goes hand in hand. Buck Brannaman encourages his readers to look inward, though he recognizes this is not always easy to do. This book will not only teach you how to work with horses, it will teach you that balance is key and timing is essential in everything. If people can find the strength to look at who they really are inside and understand what it is they want to achieve, they can also do this with their horses. After reading this book I feel like I finally understand the meaning of Brannaman's horsemanship methods. Buck is a truly great horseman who teaches with discipline and kindness, not fear and cruelty. I love the way he wishes his readers a "life . . . filled with good horses" - I know that without horses, my own life would be less magical.

This is a good read. There is a lot of common sense wisdom and philosophy delivered in an interesting low key manner. Several times while I was reading, I had the feeling Buck was whispering his story rather than indulging in all the trauma and drama that seems to be essential for most storytellers. His love for horses is evident and his straightforward advice about being a friend to your horse is unquestionably correct. I get the feeling Buck would be easy to like, his book certainly is.

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