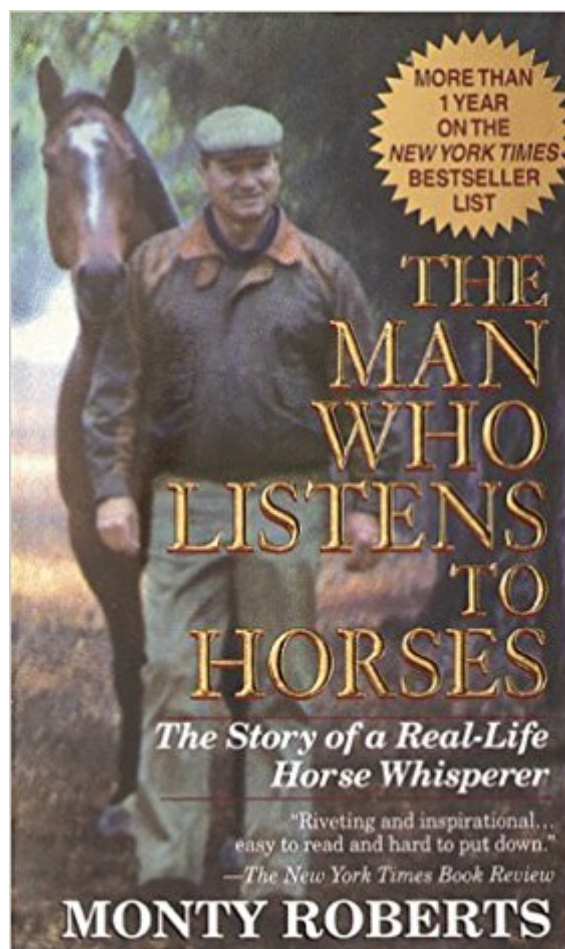


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# The Man Who Listens To Horses



## Synopsis

"It all dates from those summers alone in the high desert, me lying on my belly and watching wild horses with my binoculars for hours at a time. Straining to see in the moonlight, striving to fathom mustang ways, I knew instinctively I had chanced upon something important but could not know that it would shape my life. In 1948 I was a boy of thirteen learning the language of horses. . . ."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 flight 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.  
--Kerry Fried --This text refers to the Poster edition.

The surprisingly complex and lively memoir of a successful and influential horse trainer who helped pioneer nonviolent methods of breaking horses in. Some of the book's vigor and pace may have to do with the fact that Lucy Grealy (*Autobiography of a Face*, 1994) is the coauthor. The narrative begins in 1948 when Roberts, then 13, spent time studying wild horses in the Nevada desert. He applied what he learned there to radically new ideas about how wild horses could be trained and came to be an important figure in horse racing circles. His portrait of the business of breeding and training horses is frank and fascinating, but the book's most memorable passages cover the rodeos and horse business in the west as it was in the author's youth, and include a haunting portrait of his violent, racist father and of some of the other remarkable figures Roberts knew (including a young James Dean). Over and above everything, though, is Roberts's surpassing love for horses, captured here in his evocations of the horses he has trained over a career spanning four decades.  
(Author tour) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Poster edition.

As a lifelong horse lover I have always been fascinated by how horses affect people. People as groups, like the military, and people as individuals like myself and others that love horses. So much of the time horses are badly treated and i hate to see that: there is no reason for it. Monty Roberts book reveals a beginning of just how close people can be to their horses and how much horses normally really try to do what their owner wants. It's the stupid people that is most often the problem. This is special as a life story and learning more about horses. I'm glad to have read it and wish I could have met Monty Roberts. Horses would wish to give him a word of thanks, too.

As a person preparing to retire this book gives great inspiration for the opportunity of a new and wonderful life if we can reconcile and improve from whatever past we started with.

Monty Roberts is an author who makes the reader feel that he is present during the very touching story of Monty's life from early childhood through his adulthood. In the midst of this fascinating

autobiography, the reader is introduced to the psychology of the horse and the beauty of its disposition. He also shows the kindness with which humans should regard any animal, and through his life experiences, proves that humans have been very ignorant in their methods of attempting to train animals that can be so easily trained with kind, gentle techniques. It is no wonder that he has been featured on the TV programs such as "20/20", and "60 Minutes") in the past and was contracted by Queen Elizabeth II to teach her trainers his method of "Join-up" in training the royal horses at Buckingham Palace, London, UK.

I would recommend this book to anyone even if they are not a horse enthusiast. The book tells of courage, determination, humanity and triumphs! It is entertaining and a real page turner, while being educational at the same time. This book teaches not only a training method but that kindness will get you farther than bullying something or someone to your will. It teaches how important it is to effectively communicate with anyone, animal or human. It teaches you to never give up. I think the schools, students and teachers in America should especially read this book. Also, it would benefit companies to instill this type of thought when dealing with employee's! Getting anyone to want to work with you to accomplishing your goals is going to be more beneficial than forcing them to work for you!

One of the best books that I have read. A must read, even after all of these years!

Excellent book, great writer, very educational and entertaining

Everyone who has a horse - or any animal - should read this book. "Breaking" a horse can break it in so many ways and is incredibly cruel. Trying to dominate animals and bend them to our will may work short term but at a huge cost. This book shows there is a better way - instead of asserting power over it is about power with, working with, earning the love and respect (not fear) of another being. A good strategy with people too.

Monty Roberts is a compassionate soul who has led the way in showing how to make a relationship with horses, rather than fall back on violence and cruelty to gain desired behaviors. It was truly terrific to read his life story and understand how he came to develop his Join-Up method and helps us all to understand that animals have a language all their own; if we are patient enough and caring enough, and learn their language, we'll be rewarded with a relationship of willing cooperation and

friendship that before Monty just couldn't be dreamed of.

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