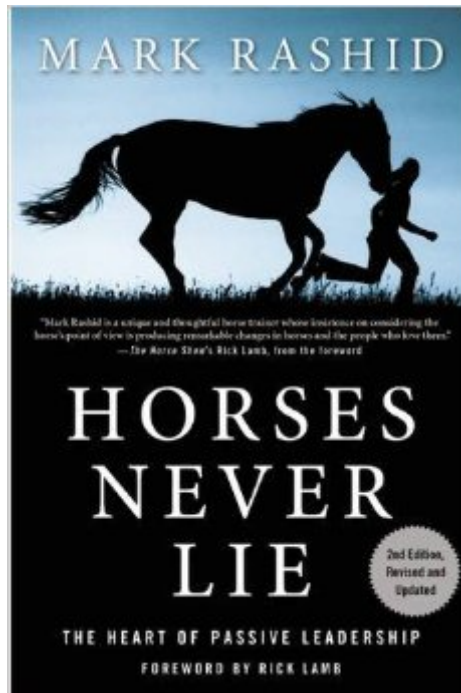


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Horses Never Lie: The Heart Of Passive Leadership



Synopsis

Learn to train your horses with compassion and understanding. In *Horses Never Lie*, renowned horse trainer Mark Rashid introduces us to his revolutionary method for training horses. He emphasizes the importance of balance: "It has always been my contention that working with horses is, or at least should be, a delicate balancing act between finding how much or how little direction it will take to help the horse we are working with understand whatever it is we are trying to teach. Too little direction and our efforts might become ineffective. Too much direction and we may develop resistance and animosity between our horse and us." With this sensitive, thoughtful approach, Rashid challenges the conventional wisdom of "alpha leadership" and teaches the reader to become a "passive leader"; a human counterpart to the kind of horse other members of a herd choose to associate with and to follow. Applying Rashid's principles and techniques helps cultivate horse personalities that are responsive and dependable regardless of the rider. Reliving Rashid's experiences with him, you will come to feel the same sort of compassion and appreciation for your horses that you do for the people in your life. This edition features additional notes at the end of each chapter that contribute to a more complete understanding of Rashid's methods and philosophy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Horses Never Lie" was my first foray into Mark Rashid territory, and I admit it was with some trepidation. I was mildly skeptical of the glowing reviews, wondering if "clinic-junkies" wrote them all. I couldn't have been more off-base, and am sorry it took me so long to read this book! Many readers

may already be familiar with the Tom Dorrance / Ray Hunt schools of thought. Mark, however, takes what are essentially the same general, but amorphous, concepts and makes them understandable for the masses and adds to them. He effectively presents the ideal of "quiet, consistent" behavior around the horse to deepen the horse-human bond. "Quiet consistency" is an elusive concept, deceptively simple to understand in the abstract, but rather difficult to employ in practical terms. He contrasts the passive leader (one who is quietly consistent, dependable) with the dominant "alpha horse" theory, showing how one attracts (truly earns) respect, while the other commands (demands) it. Mark effectively presents his ideas by relating his own frustrations as an inexperienced horseman. These examples - painfully recognizable to the reader! - illustrate how he transformed his own way of thinking, guided by the mentor of sorts he describes as "the old man." Mark also describes his experiences of more recent years, when he employs his "new" ideas in several types of situations but always with the same results. Mark brilliantly proves his main point in the very way he has written this book. The leader who is more likely to be followed is the one that sets the example, quietly and consistently, and lets the followers voluntarily choose.

Rashid's easy-reading style is both entertaining and informative. His book is full of personal stories (actual true horse stories) which makes it "fun" as well as informative reading. He contrasts numerous training "styles" (good and bad) rather than step-by-step techniques, but carefully lays out the difference between "aggressive dominance" and "passive leadership". His book "Considering the Horse" goes well with this one, and I purchased both. Rashid's writing style keeps the pages turning...I find myself absorbed in his books. They only recently arrived and I have read nearly through both! Like his other book, "Considering the Horse", this book, "Horses Never Lie" is worth reading. I would recommend this book for all who wish to become better horse handlers, and also for those who just love horses and want a wonderful and informative book to read on a rainy day. It is thought provoking. Even if you only have an "over-the-fence" relationship with horses, your equine-relationships will still greatly benefit from the information in this book. Rashid's love of horses is evident...and his descriptive writing style is most enjoyable. Rashid's training techniques are not exacting in their implementation-one must absorb the general flow of information and concepts, then put the stories to memory and use the techniques described in any given situation, essentially with a general bent toward the kind of relationship you (hopefully) desire with a horse. This book doesn't explain the exact methods one might need to know to turn out a high-schooled horse. It isn't a training manual, but more of a mind-emotion altering challenge, and I believe horses are the more blessed for his training ideas...

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