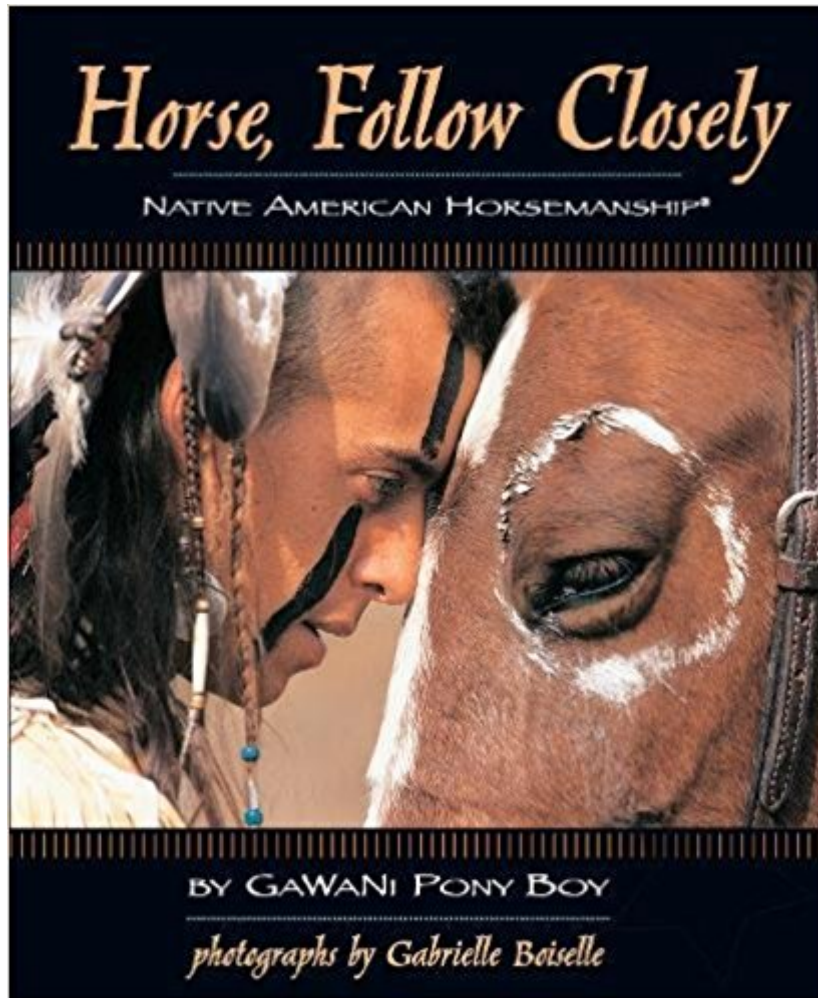




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Horse, Follow Closely: Native American Horsemanship



Synopsis

The bible of North American Horsemanship, *Horse, Follow Closely* is GaWaNi Pony Boy's signature title about the relationship training methods that are steeped in common sense and the age-old wisdom of his Native American ancestors. Of mixed blood Tsa-la-gi, GaWaNi Pony Boy was able to conceive his philosophy and compile the methods of relationship training while touring the United States with a Native American drum band and consulting the Tribal Elders from many different nations and backgrounds. The methods and beliefs of relationship training come directly from the first great horsemen of North America. "Horse and rider are one. There is a relationship of trust, harmony, and respect born of a way of life that is all but lost." The stunning full-color photographs by Gabrielle Boisselle capture Pony Boy's serenity and unity with his close horse companions. The author's simple eloquence forges a deep, profound relationship with his readers that few books ever hope to achieve. As Pony Boy writes in the introduction, "For many [the Native American horseman] represents the ultimate rider. The essence of a horseman, both his skill and intuition, goes beyond the hours he spends in the saddle; the folklore of every Native tribe are stories, tales, and beliefs to exemplify human's relations to other animals." The book begins with an analysis of how horses came to live with the Natives of North America and horses' impact on Native life. The crux of relationship training, according to the author, is to understand "what it means to be a horse, react like a horse, and relate to other things like a horse." Native Americans were able to create such strong relationship with horses in a short time because they understood that "a horse is a horse." Learning to balance the relationship between horse and human is the missing link to becoming a masterful horseman or horsewoman. The book describes not only the techniques involved for relationship training but also the belief system and attitude that must be applied to all methods of horsemanship. In addition to presenting the methods and philosophy of relationship training, *Horse, Follow Closely* also includes many stories and legends of Native Americans and their horses, all of which teach the reader something new about himself and his relationship with his horse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been on a bend, reading as many books on horses that I can find so I can understand my horse, and this book has turned out to be one of my favorites. There's learning about horses, and there's making a spiritual connection, Gawani Pony Boy does that latter. He teaches a rider who to think like horse, rather than thinking of a horse as human and making them act in ways that humans act (two-leggeds as Pony Boy would say). While this might sound trite, we humans try to put human traits onto our animals all the time, from dressing up our dogs, to expecting a horse to react to our vocal commands while our bodies are saying something different. Pony Boy explains how horses are herd animals and they need a strong, competent and wise leader to follow, and if that's not you, the horse will not respect you. Pony Boy tells us how to explain things to a horse in their language. How to observe your horse to see his likes and dislikes, things no one can tell you because maybe no one else knows. He explains how the Natives discovered horses and within a couple of hundred years, became horsemen that were unparalleled in the world. What I loved most about this book is how Pony Boy shows the reader how you can become 'one' with your horse, getting him to move where you want with nothing more than focus. I loved how he explained why horses move to one side when you shift your weight. Pony Boy suggests you put a child on your shoulders to feel what a horse feels when weight is shifted from one side the other. I could tell that this man has a great love and respect for his brother the horse, and it made me understand these magnificent beings a little more. Horses were not just beasts of burdens to the Natives, but a spiritual partner. Besides the wonderful lessons, the photos in this book are just breathtaking, even in my Kindle Paperwhite, that I just had to see them on my iPad. The photos are even more amazing in color. I can even tell what some of the markings painted on these ponies mean now after reading this book. If you love horses, you'll love this book.

Of all the horse books in my bookcases, this is my favorite by far. Gawani Pony Boy has captured my values and my beliefs about horses. I am anything but a horse trainer but I get many horses in my rescue to do things for me without "formal" training. This book emphasizes the importance of one's relationship with a horse and the importance of "listening" to horses. This book validated my experience and my belief that horses have rights, feelings, and preferences that should be honored and respected. For those who are looking for training skills without an emphasis on the relationship with the horse, another book would probably be more suitable. For those who only want a result and do not care what it does to a horse to get the result, this is not the book they will appreciate. I first received this book as a gift and have been purchasing it as gifts for others. If I could only take 12 inches of book material with me to be deserted on an island this book would be included.

Once again, this is supposed to be about natural training and natural horse care. As with Monty Roberts, I've read some reviews that just hate this author for whatever reason. It was a "nice" read, but not particularly informative, in my opinion.

I had recently rescued two horses and know nothing about them as I am a dog breeder. This book was and is an inspiration. It gave me insight into what a horse is and how to relate to this animal and how easy it is to understand a horse. Also the Indian way of life and view of the world and how we should live in it with other creatures was so simple. I have these two horses now and we can talk to each other and completely understand what the other is about. I know what they are thinking and they know me. It has been a wonderful experience for me and the book opened the door.

beautiful book

love this book, helps you understand becoming one with your horse

This book is enjoyable, easy to read & understand. I was expecting something different to other natural horsemanship books thinking that Native Americans would have a more unique approach. The concepts seem like they should be common sense. Very happy I purchased this book.

This book was purchased after having seen the children's version called "Out of the Saddle". In it, Gawani Pony Boy describes his saga to find Native American traditions of relating to horses. He learns many stories but, more importantly, finds what makes a horse's relationship with a human so

special and how to enhance communication with these graceful creatures. There is more detailed information in the adult version but both effectively convey the heart of what this remarkable horseman has learned and what he practices with his horses.

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