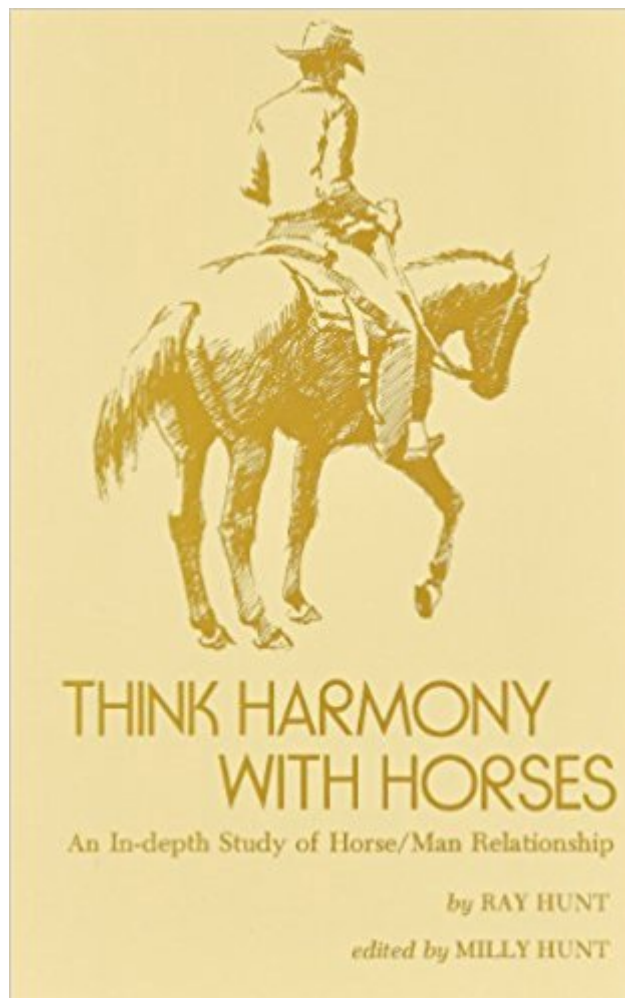




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Think Harmony With Horses: An In-Depth Study Of Horse/Man Relationship



Synopsis

"When you ask your horse to do something it should be his idea... he wants to do it, he understands how to do it, and he does it. " These words are typical of the way Ray Hunt expresses his philosophy of the ideal relationship between horse and man. That philosophy is discussed in this book, in a manner that makes the reader feel as if he is listening to Ray talk. It is persuasive talk - gently persuasive; this man's ideas make a lot of sense, and the success he has achieved with those ideas is impressive. Ray Hunt traveled around the country working with groups of riders who were interested in his philosophy of harmony with horses. As Gene Lewis says in his forward to the book, Ray's theory is "to unite the horse and rider into one working unit of both mind and body. He has developed a language and has become a wonderful teacher and demonstrator." Included in this book is an interpretation of the "Ray Hunt method of schooling a horse" written by Vincent W. Carpenter, who attended one of Ray's clinics. He tells amazing stories that Ray might not tell about himself and summarizes the whole philosophy in a clear and objective way. Also included is a question and answer section, in which a number of the most commonly asked questions are answered in detail. And throughout the entire book runs the simple, basic idea: think harmony.

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Customer Reviews

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First bought the book in 1982. Rode with Ray Hunt, and watched him, Tom Dorrance, and Bill Dorrance work, often. Pat Parelli, met in 1988, is my current senior leader, as the others have gone to Horseman's Heaven, but they were some of the finest men on the planet, all who truly understood horses, and were able to share that understanding, deeply with humans who were fortunate to encounter them. Just got it again, as fire took all of my wonderful books and so I am not getting autographed copies, but I am grateful to touch and read, and remember the finest. My Draft cross, 1/2 Friesian 1/2 Percheron, born out of a pmu Percheron, after she foaled her first Percheron at 3 at my home, later bought by someone for the breeding to a Friesian, now mine. Too stove up to be the first on her back, a fellow who had Ray do a clinic at his stable in 1982, first saddled my Bel, and rode her a month or so, while I came around the last several days, and rode her with him, even working cows on her back. Since the woman who bred the pmu Percheron to get that darling filly, decided not to keep it, I was most fortunate to get her a couple years ago. Thanks to Mike's understanding of Ray's concepts, he did a fairly good job. He understood Ray's message, and has worked with Pat as well. That good horse will now, most likely, be helping veterans with PTSD, her gentle nature, and her spiritual training fitting her well to be a therapy horse. Some of these folks around the horses today are true giants among horsemen. We have been blessed to be here while they served the horses. Like Ray said, "He is a lawyer for the horse." There are no problem horses, just horses with people problems. Book is a gift that keeps on giving.

Ray Hunt was a phenomenal horseman, and I'm happy to have obtained a copy of this book. That

said, it is rather poorly written. If you're a cowboy (or cowgirl) who's heard of the legendary Ray Hunt, you'll probably treasure his words (I do) and appreciate the man who spoke them. I think it would have been wonderful to meet Ray in person and learn from him, but since he's now gone, at least we have his philosophy to refer to in the training of our own horses. I think you have to know something about the "old cowboys" like Ray Hunt and the Dorrance brothers, and be attuned to the philosophy behind Natural Horsemanship, to really justify spending the money to buy this book.

I rated this book as a three star just because I found it a challenge to read. The story is excellent and it's a book that touched my heart, but it's not an adventure novel. I've only recently become interested in "Horse Whispering" (not the words that whisperers like Tom Dorrance, Ray Hunt or Buck Brannaman would use.) I grew up in the west around horses all the time. I rode them, worked on them and used them hunting in the mountains but I never suspected that there could be a real connection between a man and a horse until I saw Triple Crown hopeful Funny Cide "Talking" with assistant trainer, Robin Smullen, after he lost the Belmont Stakes. She was holding his head in her hands and talking to him like a kid who lost his first baseball game and I thought then it was really weird. Last year the movie "Buck" came out and told the story about Buck Brannaman, the man behind Robert Redford's movie The Horse Whisperer. And then the plot thickened... If you were intrigued by ideas in The Horse Whisperer or the relationship the trainer of Seabiscuit, Tom Smith, had with horses, you will probably like this book. I wish I had this book while my kids were still young. In the book, Ray Hunt explains that horse training boils down to a simple concept. Making the wrong things hard and the right things easy for your horse. For me I'm applying that concept to many other parts of my life. Enjoy

Took some deciphering. English doesn't appear to be this man's first language. Having studied and practiced natural horsemanship principals I persevered as Ray Hunt is one of the first. He is well respected with good reason however unless you have background knowledge this book would have been difficult to follow.

If you know Carson James, you needed to read this book. If you don't know Carson James get on the internet and get to know him.

Highly recommended. Looking forward to more wisdom from Ray.

Ray Hunt was such a wonderful man who truly understood horses. I am so glad to have his book in my collection. I truly enjoyed this read. While it is a short book, it is full of ideology and horsemanship concepts. The book is short and requires some reading between the lines. This is not a go to book for a beginner horse person, but something to advance too. There is also a very helpful question and answer section at the end of the book.

Ray talks about ways to understand the horses point of view, and sets it up so you can think about the "feel" you have when your communication is understood and agreed with. This book along with his videos give you a chance to explore the meaning of feel, balance, and timing while you are in the saddle. His point of "making the wrong thing difficult and the right easy" is a great way of explaining "pressure and release" as long as you never forget "the right thing EASY" part. If all things were possible I'm sure this would be one of my horses favorite books, and a must read for all his friends. Happy Trails!

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