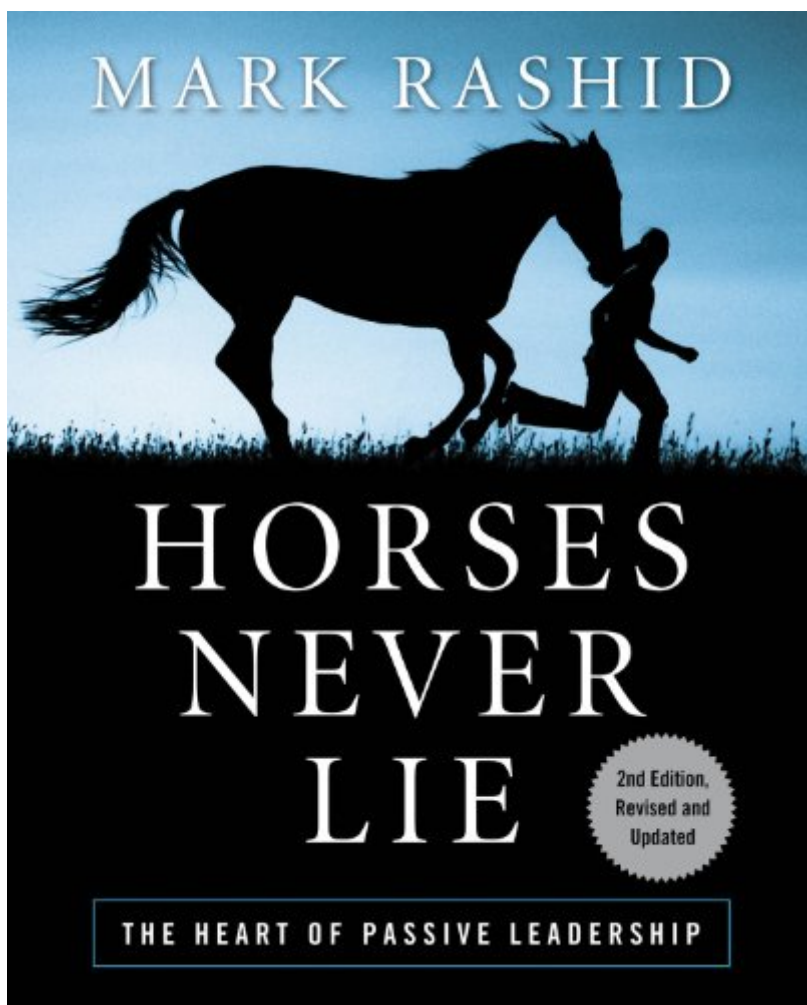




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Horses Never Lie: The Heart Of Passive Leadership



Synopsis

In *Horses Never Lie*, renowned horse trainer Mark Rashid challenges the conventional wisdom of the "alpha leadership" and teaches the reader to become a "passive leader" – a 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 new edition features added introductory notes for each chapter that contribute to a more complete understanding of Rashid's methods and philosophy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the 1st of Rashid's books acquired -- I like the format, his writing style & his story. Needless to say, in a short period I have bought all his books. There are several "great" horse people out there, altho Mark might not have the name recognition of some of the others. Sort of like some of

the great spiritual masters -- & this is a Spiritual affair! -- his teacher (a true Master in his own right) was totally unknown, but saw something in Mark that warranted passing on his knowledge. Although having been "around" horses intermittently all my life & as a mixed (veterinary) practitioner, I would never call myself a "horse person". Now nearing retirement & finding myself at, probably, my final "resting" stop at a thoroughbred racetrack, I've come home with a retired bay gelding & Mark's story has such resonance, it forces me to truly dedicate myself to creating a trusted, working relationship to these great animals! Peter L. Brown, DVMUGA '87

If you are looking for a how-to book, this is not for you. But, perhaps, you may want to re-evaluate your approach if so. Mark Rashid uses the old school method of teaching: stories. He tells stories about how he learned to change his approach to horses, and the experiences he had which led him to deeper awareness of the horse's perspective. He emphasizes the dignity of the horse's soul in his whole approach. It is leadership with complementarity, which horses almost universally recognize and appreciate, and to which they positively respond. His philosophy is less about 'standing firm', and more about 'going with but directing'. In case you have not guessed, these principles and ways of being are not limited to the equestrian world. In this book you will find one of the better leadership primers you might ever find. I highly recommend it not only for equestrians, but for leaders in any area. You will learn much, in small, incremental, but soul-changing ways.

This book is a testament to an authentic horse lover. I read this book slowly and savor each page. I started riding horses when I was 5 years old. I have had my own beautiful chestnut standardbred since she was turning three years of age. I made the conscience decision to not train her for riding. She was intended to be a harness race horse and didn't "make the cut". She has a skin flap in front of her wind pipe and she needs to exercise at her own pace. Knowing that she has excellent breeding lines, I intentionally kept her as a one person horse, so that she would be well cared for, not over controlled, and not trained with impatience and frustration. My beautiful horse has been personally trained by me, in a similar manner, as ascribed by the author. I have been given poor advice in the past and deemed it as unkind, and given with twangs of disapproval of my philosophies. I know her well, because she has allowed me into every curve and chamber of her beautiful heart. That only happens when you are fully trusted and you have earned the respect of your horse.. There is a special heaven for horses and those that have their trust.

This book is especially enjoyable because the author shares his personal insights so colorfully that

you experience it along with his stories. It reads as if he's in the room, telling you about his lifelong experiences in the rural horse world. The book is written in a down to earth, logical and compassionate style makes for extremely easy reading. I found myself wishing there were more words published in this sturdy hardcover...there is a lot of white space because the book is briefer than it appears from the cover. Otherwise, great! Just a little different spin from the conventional natural horsemanship approach, but it dovetails with the philosophy. I especially appreciated that the author observed horse behavior in the wild, not in artificial groups on a horse farm. With this perspective, it becomes obvious that we often attribute social strata behaviors to our horses as "natural" that really are not, but that rather result from conditions we impose upon their stability in their social environment. Aside from sharing insightful information about horse interaction, leadership and relating to your horse, the stories alone were riveting and fulfilling for any horse lover.

Once in a while, throughout all the good books you read, there is one every once in a while that stands out as a gem that will forever change your perspective on life and have you thinking for weeks after. I have never as much as ridden a horse and do not ever come into contact with the equestrian world at all. But I found this book magnificent and the philosophy transcends it's intended application to horses. This is the philosophy of life, how to lead and how to teach, and how to be and how to be the person other people want to be around. On a personal level it has helped me to better understand, and view in a different light, some of the (difficult) relationships in my life and also made me see my own passive personality from a fresh angle. I think this book can be applied to all areas of life. I think this may have been easy for me to see since I don't know much about horses. With regards to horses, I found this a perfect introduction to understanding horses and the depth of psych of the horse. I also look at horses in an entirely different way. If all of mankind were like the passive horse this world would be heaven. Highly highly recommended. Wisdom on a page.

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