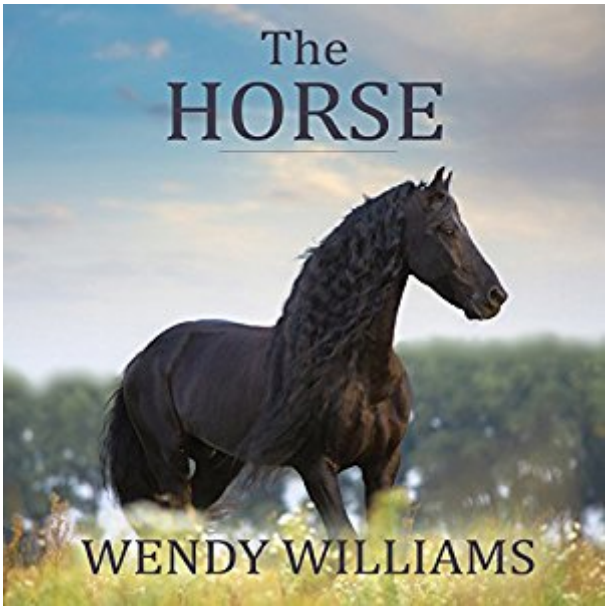
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# The Horse: The Epic History Of Our Noble Companion




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## Synopsis

Horses have a story to tell - one of resilience, sociability, and intelligence and of partnership with human beings. In The Horse, journalist and equestrienne Wendy Williams brings that story brilliantly to life. Williams chronicles the 56-million-year journey of horses as she visits with experts around the world, exploring what our biological affinities and differences can tell us about the bond between horses and humans and what our longtime companions might think and feel. Indeed, recent scientific breakthroughs regarding the social and cognitive capacities of the horse and its ability to adapt to changing ecosystems indicate that this animal is a major evolutionary triumph. In this book, Williams observes magnificent ancient cave art in France and Spain that signals a deep respect and admiration for horses well before they were domesticated; visits the mountains of Wyoming with experts in equine behavior to understand the dynamics of free-roaming mustangs; celebrates the Takhi horses of Mongolia; and more. She blends profound scientific insights with remarkable stories to create a unique biography of the horse as a sentient being with a fascinating past and a finely nuanced mind.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The HorseÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•: The Epic History of Our Noble Companion by Wendy Williams ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Horse PeopleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, and likely most ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Animal PeopleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, should really enjoy this book. It presents snapshots of the horse's history over the last 56 million years or so, of course, but the really fun part is that Williams shows how

modern Science is now proving many of the things that all of us barn flys have long known/believed about our beloved horses (as well as dogs and some other animals). In fact, she shows that humans and horses developed interdependently and that is the main reason why humans and horses are so enthralled with each other even today. Williams is a surprisingly fine and entertaining writer and has structured this work so the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“scienceÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (mainly anthropology, paleontology and ethology) comes in small, very clear doses and always lead the reader into great (and thought-provoking) discussions of horses and the horse-human relationships. Like most ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Animal PeopleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• I've read fifty-'leven books about horses but I have to say this is probably the best I've ever seen. If you are a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Horse PersonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• I promise you will find yourself laughing and saying ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“I knew it, I knew it !ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• over and over again.

Reading The Horse: The Epic History of Our Noble Companion filled me with awe and wonder at the mystery, not only of horses, but also the mystery of our great and grand world. AS a very young girl I was aware of the evolutionary story of the horse, but I had no idea the depth of the mystery or how the dynamic forces of evolution worked. This book is a solid introduction that welcomes me into the conversation, even though I have been a skeptic of evolutionary theory.The Horse opens with a description of how widespread and beautiful early humans' artistic depictions of horses were. I was slack jawed and amazed at how much horse art people created during the Stone Age from paintings to sculptures. It's almost as though there was something mystical about this ancient relationship between humans and horses that goes beyond horses as a food or transportation source.This book is not only about the horse/human bond that goes back millennia, but it's also about how the world has always endured climate change, with warm periods that saw explosions of species and ice ages where some species adapted and survived. The Horse: The Epic History... illuminates how climate change has effected what species were able to survive until now. I was startled to find out how horses very nearly became extinct when savannahs changed to forests and horses weren't able to adapt fast enough.Williams has done an excellent job of reporting in this book. Even though it describes horses from a scientific perspective, Williams keeps you reading in order to find out what the next discovery is or insight is. I gained new insights into my own relationship with horses, by learning how they literally see the world. Williams draws on the latest ethological studies to show how horses get along in the wild and she draws on personal experience to convey her respect for their intelligence.I highly recommend The Horse: The Epic History of Our Noble Companion. It is a fascinating, fast and enjoyable read.

Of course, we all read books for different reasons. I purchased this book because of the subject matter and because I know some of the people referenced in the book. What I received was a gem! It covers a very broad sweep of earth history and science in a way that is both entertaining and intellectually enriching. Ms. Williams has a playful writing style that includes the reader in her discoveries. She presents well researched science amidst a paleontological travelogue that brings the dazzling intricacies of evolution to life. It left me in a welcome trance of wonder (too rare in this age of instantaneous social media critique!). If you are interested in horses, humans, life, ice ages, grasses, eyes, ears, teeth, toxic acorns, barrier islands, gorse, plate tectonics, cave paintings, bones, tar pits, and Polecat Bench, then you have found your next book purchase! I have already started re-reading my new favorite book!

As an equestrian who has a real love and admiration for horses, I thought I'd be intrigued by this book - I read the review in the NYTimes. I was not disappointed - I could not put it down. One of my favorite holiday reads this season. Williams traces the evolution of the horse from the dawn of time - and the animal's intimate link with our early ancestor hominids. She adds such intriguing information about this magnificent creature intertwined with modern research and her personal experiences with horses. It is a fascinating read for all - not just those of us whose lives are touched daily by horses.

The author did an excellent job with this. As a veterinary and general reader of almost anything with a horse on the cover, the book did include a lot of things I had read before. But the presentation was excellent and there were many interesting factoids that I had NOT heard of before (particularly in the sections on evolution and cognition -- and I've read a lot about equine evolution and cognition....). I bought a copy for a similarly well-read horse person and will be interested to see what she thinks of it. There is a good bibliography for those of you interested in chasing things down to the original research articles.The title could have been better. When I told my horse he was supposed to be "noble" he had a good laugh about it.

This book will be enjoyed by anyone with an interest in horses, with lots of stories demonstrating the reliability, flexibility and adaptability of the noble steed.

really liked this book. I enjoyed all the data and info on evolution of horses and horse relatives and how they spread through the world. fascinating.

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