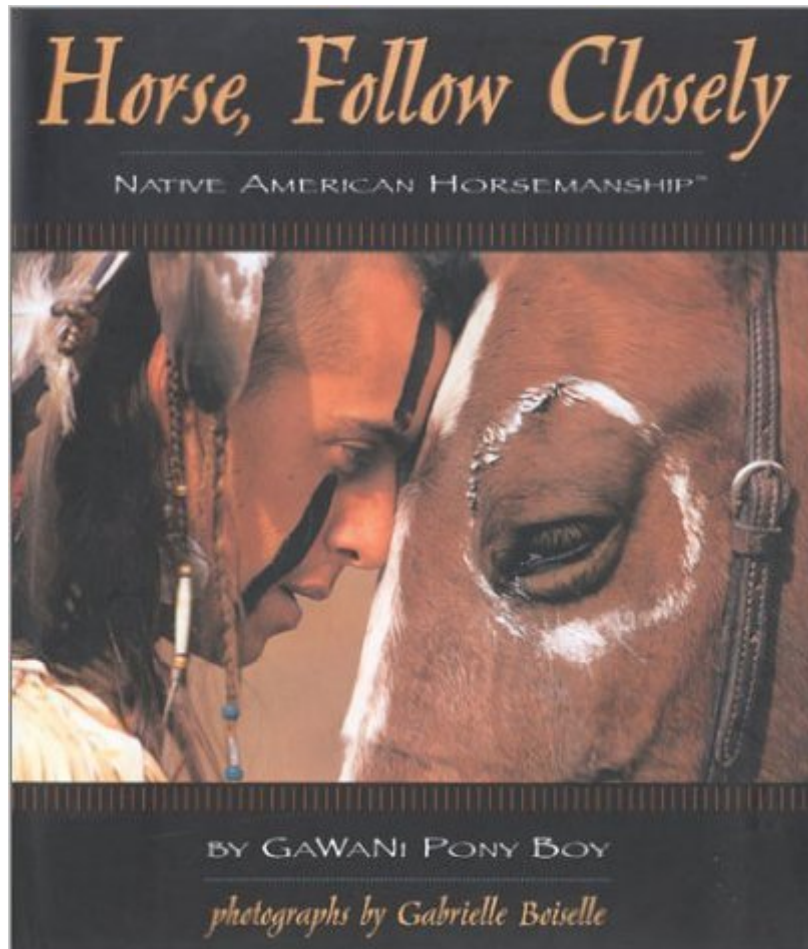


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# Horse, Follow Closely: Native American Horsemanship



## Synopsis

Horse and rider are one. Theirs is a relationship of trust, harmony, and respect born of a way of life that is all but lost. One man puts it within our grasp again. In this magnificent book, GaWaNi Pony Boy illustrates the traditional training methods—methods that are steeped in common sense and age-old wisdom—of his ancestors, America's first great horsemen. The stunning full-color photographs and simple eloquence takes us back to the days when horse training was not merely about getting results but about creating a bond for life. An inspiration for riders and a feast for horse and Native American culture enthusiasts, this book forges a relationship with readers that few books can ever hope to achieve.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my husband this past Christmas, but wasn't sure I would like it all that well. I am a classically trained English rider (have been riding on and off since I was 3) and have worked with horses in many different environments. My husband rides Western though, and I have spent some time on a Native American reservation, so I thought we'd like it. The surprise for me was how it has changed the way I think. Many riders are trained to dominate their horse, to "show him who's boss". This attitude works, sometimes, but doesn't always lead to a healthy partnership, and sometimes leads to frustration and aggression. GaWaNi, like some other trainers these days (Mark Rashid comes to mind), suggests a different approach, one I was quite impressed with when

reading. He speaks of Relationship Training, of the creation of the two-member herd, the "Itancan" (leader) and "Waunca" (imitator). When we are with our horse, we can establish such a relationship with him (or her), and using natural herd behavior, work together with our animals in a partnership, rather than force them to do things simply because we "tell" them to. It seems a very natural way to do things, and one I plan to put into effect with my own horse (I'll come back and write another review once I've tried these techniques). I have only a few tiny quibbles. The book is gorgeous, and that prevents me from taking it with me to the barn, which I'd like to do. It's almost a cross between a coffee table book and a manual, and frankly, I'd have had more use for a manual I wouldn't be afraid to get dirty. But, that just means I'll have to take notes, not a bad thing in and of itself.

...Personally, I loved the book with its horse training ("Relationship Training") methods combined with Native American philosophy regarding human-animal relationships. However, .. Pony Boy does chunk all NA training methods together as if all tribes trained horses the same way. Naturally there would be differences between tribes, and it would have been nice if he'd mentioned these differences. And I'm sure there were some NA's that were cruel to horses, just as you find animal cruelty in all parts of the world. Maybe Pony Boy didn't want to portray any negative aspects of some tribes ...Also, while I think that most beginners with horses (such as I) would delight in this book, I would think (and judging by the previous reviews, my assumption looks correct) that opinions from experienced trainers would be much more mixed. I don't think the book was really targeted towards experienced trainers, judging by the simple, beginning exercises (including falling off, or what some refer to as the "emergency dismount") explained in the book. Most experienced horse people know how to fall off a horse properly. But this is essential information for a beginner (especially if you're gonna bareback ride!), and I'm glad Pony Boy included it in the book. But it doesn't surprise me that more experienced people are disappointed that the book doesn't contain more information. I know some reviewers weren't happy with the professional photography in the book either, feeling it's just fluff. Being an amateur photographer with a degree in Technical Communication, where you're taught good design, I simply cannot fault the book for it's wonderful imagery and good overall design.

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