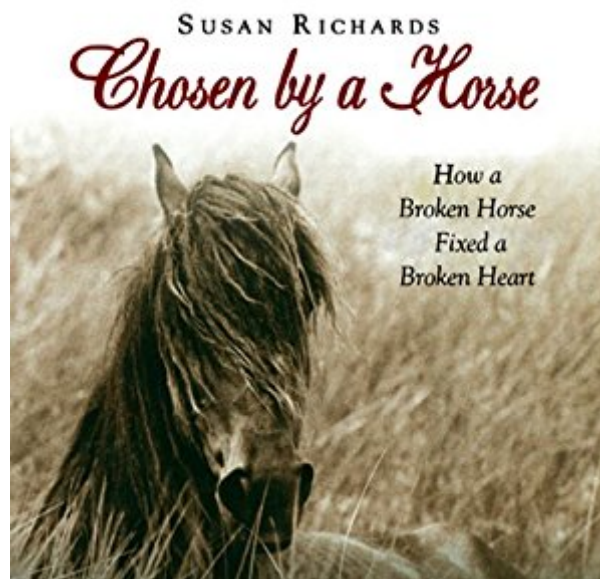




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Chosen By A Horse: How A Broken Horse Fixed A Broken Heart



Synopsis

“Proof that love for another animal can alone make one human and humane: wit and crushing sadness chasing each other all across the page; intelligence and bravery and perfect literary pitch... Damn great.”

•Melissa Holbrook Pierson, author of *Dark Horses* and *Black Beauties: Animals; Women, a Passion*

“A bold and sensitive memoir of what it means to open one’s heart to love... A magnificent read.”

•Adele von Rust McCormick, Ph.D and Marlena Deborah McCormick, PhD, authors of *Horses and the Mystical Path; Horse Sense and the Human Heart*

“A triumph for all spirits.”

•Laura Shaine Cunningham, author of *A Place in the Country*

“Should rank with the great animal stories.”

•Ann Arensberg, author of *Incubus* “Two kindred spirits find each other in this beautifully written memoir about the human-animal bond.”

•Temple Grandin, author of *Animals in Translation* When she agrees to take on the care of one of the abused horses just rescued by the local SPCA, a new chapter opens in Susan Richards’s difficult life. She lost her mother at the age of five and was raised by uncaring relatives; married unhappily and divorced; and suffered from alcoholism. While Susan is trying to capture the horse assigned to her, Lay Me Down, a skeletal mare, walks into Susan’s horse trailer of her own volition. Susan already owns one mare and two geldings—the diva-like Georgia, boyish Tempo and hopelessly romantic Hotshot—but it is with Lay Me Down that she forges a special, healing relationship that alters her life. Poignant and evocative, this is a book for anyone who has ever loved a horse, and for everyone who has ever lost a loved one.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oh my gosh, what a beautiful memoir. It starts out as just an interesting story, building and building until it just completely slays you at the end. Susan Richards is in her early forties, and she has moved past a horrific childhood and dysfunctional young adulthood, and created a satisfying life for herself. However, her strategies for keeping her demons at bay begin to crumble when Lay Me Down, her rescue horse, develops health problems. It is only by dealing with this situation that Susan is able to break through to her own healing. For anyone who had a difficult childhood, as I did, this memoir will fill you up with love, and give you reason to know that you're not alone.

I am about half way through the book and I can feel the loneliness that the author is portraying. I often feel it myself as life moves on. We each have our own things in life to deal with, accidents happen, parents divorce or pass away, etc. There can be nothing better than to be Chosen by a Horse as a friend, herdsperson, pal. I owned an Arabian gelding for about a year until my heavy schedule gave me only 2 hours a week to be with him. I had to sell him and did to a very wonderful woman who would be able to work with him for days not hours at a time. I have never missed anything as much as him before or after I owned him. That horse taught me more in 6 months than all my teachers in high school tried to do in 4 years. I know in my heart now (that it is too late) that I did the wrong thing by not readjusting my schedule to make more time available for him. A hard lesson learned.

Chosen by a Horse is an equine memoir by Susan Richards. It is the touching story about her journey through a difficult life and how a special horse assisted her in understanding and overcoming her challenges. When Susan is called about rescued Standardbreds, she really didn't need to add a horse to her herd of three. But the SPCA was in desperate need of homes for 40 neglected horses and Susan drove home with the first mare and foal that walked into her trailer. Lay Me Down needed more than TLC; she need proper nutrition and health care. Her rowdy foal was soon taken away by the owner, but the mare stayed with Susan who soon nursed her back to health. He glimpses into the adjustments of life with this new horse, including introducing the mare to the herd, is mixed with anecdotes of Susan's troubled childhood and adult life. This story is well written and draws the reader in right away as if she is sitting across from you at a long lunch while telling her story. I highly recommend it!

Granddaughter thrilled with this horse story. She felt you can go through a rough patch of life losing someone you love and keep going on.....very pleased with the "life lesson of this book."

I loved this book, I want to read it again. All animal lovers will totally connect with Susan Richards. I wish I was there to know her horses especially Lay Me Down. Such a sweet story and the dogs too!

This memoir had me from the first few pages. By the second chapter, I was wishing it would never end. It was like sitting down for coffee with a best friend with whom you share so much in common. Susan Richards put into words so many of my feelings for horses and for my life with them, that I could scarcely believe these words were coming from the voice of someone else. Richard's writing skill is above reproach. It is just a pure joy to read. My only complaint is that the book had to end. My only hope is that she write more wonderfully honest books about her life & that of her horses. Bless you Ms. Richards. You touched my heart.

This was an easy and enjoyable read. The best kind of book I enjoy is the one I can't put down once I start and this was one of those. I have a love for horses even though I've never owned one. When I was about 17 years old I had a one time only experience of riding one. I love them from afar and admire their beauty. I am intimidated by their size and because of that I have a fear of them. That being said, I really enjoyed reading this memoir. The author did a wonderful job in helping me know more about horses and the different personalities they have. I look forward to reading more of Susan Richards' books!

For anyone who loves horses as much as I do, this book is both beautiful and yet, so very sad. It was wonderful to read about this beautiful 'Gift', I call all creatures 'God's Gifts', and yet I cried throughout most of it. It was also filled with such wonder and hope, and I understand completely how one of 'God's Gifts' can bring so much joy to one's heart and change a life so completely. Thank you Susan for having the courage to share something so poignant and meaningful. I'm forever touched, deeply.....I would like to know however, what happened to Lay Me Down's baby? If you read this my email is blevnhm@gmail.com. Thanks, Mary Lee Rogers

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