



Album of Horses

Marguerite Henry

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How did the Morgan horse get its name?

What are the differences between a Belgian and a Clydesdale?

Why are the Byerly Turk, Darley Arabian, and Godolphin Arabian so important?

Find the answers to these and many other intriguing questions in Marguerite Henry's *Album of Horses*. The award-winning author of the wonderful stories *Misty of Chincoteague*, *King of the Wind*, and *Brighty of the Grand Canyon*, Marguerite Henry describes in vivid detail the hardworking Shire, the elegant Lipizzan, the spirited Mustang, and many more. Never before have facts about horses been more accessible, and with Wesley Dennis's classic illustrations highlighting every page, this unique collection is sure to be treasured by horse lovers of all ages.

Album of Horses Details

Date : Published March 31st 1993 by Aladdin (first published January 1st 1951)

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Author : Marguerite Henry

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Julia says

This is one book that has often been recommended to me many times but one that I never got around to. Although I had read some of Marguerite Henry's books I kind of gave up on the "Misty of Chincoteague" series after a while since of the constant new appearance of books (it is a practice that is continued to this day with new series).

I found it an interesting work that explores the history of the equine world as well as some of its varied members including horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. Each entry was well thought out but some held information that only a person that is deep in the horse-world would know so it would go over your head when she mentioned a name that she thought you should know.

I liked how each of the chapters starts off with a full color picture of the breed in question than in the following pages in the borders are various illustrations of the horse whether in its history, its description, its daily acts or whatever. Mostly, though, I feel that a lot of these illustrations have been recycled from her previous works.

My only main complaint on the actual work is that it can be a bit gruesome such as with the casual explanation of watching a tigress sacrifice herself in a burning circus fire to protect her cub. Due to this and other parts that may seem a bit rough I would suggest recommending this book to older children rather than younger.

Jess Van Dyne-Evans says

I loved these books growing up. I have a long list of them requested from the library. I was a horse girl!

puppitypup says

Children's Book One of my two all time favorite books as I child. I spent hours and hours over the years gazing at the pictures with dreams in my head. (I'm the kid that asked Santa for a pony every year.) In fact, one of my criteria for picking a husband was how well he could ride. Me and my cowboy have been married thirty years now, live on a beautiful little ranch and have horses, my very own happy ending. :)

Manybooks says

I still quite vividly remember signing Marguerite Henry's Album of Horses out of the school library in the early spring of 1977 (at the age of ten) and with much eager anticipation, but then not really all that much enjoying the different horse-breed specific anecdotes and sections (not because they were badly written, not because Marguerite Henry did not write adventuresomely and evocatively, but mostly because I personally felt that much essential horse-based information and details were missing, and that oh so many horse and

pony breeds that should have been featured, that should have been covered had not been). And while I have certainly and to a certain extent considerably more enjoyed Album of Horses this time around than I did in 1977, my main areas of criticism actually remain exactly the same, namely that Marguerite Henry's text is for one much too United States of America oriented in scope and for two spends far far too much time celebrating and glorifying horse racing as some kind of noble and esteemed entity (as I for one most certainly have always found the "sport" of horse racing more than a bit problematic at best, with its money making and winning at all costs philosophies often if not even generally seemingly more important than the health and welfare of the horses engaged in, being trained and forced to run).

And furthermore why does Marguerite Henry in her sections on Arabians and Thoroughbreds really only ever mention these horses' speed and their racing successes, when in my humble opinion, it is of far greater and international significance that almost ALL modern Western and Central European warmblood breeds owe their litheness, their stamina, their athletic talents (as well as their refined outward appearances) to Thoroughbred and Arabian influences, to breeders deliberately using the latter to make the erstwhile rather heavy and stocky carriage and farm horses of Europe lighter, prettier and more graceful? For without this selective cross-breeding, today's Dutch Warmbloods, today's Trakehners, today's Hanoverians etc. would NOT AT ALL be the show jumping and dressage stars they usually and generally are. And with this fact in mind, I am also kind of majorly annoyed and frustrated that aside from the Lippizaner breed, Marguerite Henry mentions and features NO other European warmblood. For while I of course do not expect ALL European warmbloods to have been represented in Album of Horses, that only one single breed is shown is at least for and to me rather unacceptable (especially considering how many American breeds are featured). Two and a half stars for Album of Horses (as yes indeed, for me, the author's choices of which horse breeds to include and which not to include have always bothered me and continue to bother me more than a bit), rounded up to a low three star ranking, as I have in fact enjoyed Marguerite Henry's general writing style and story telling acumen, and I do very much applaud her for categorically pointing out more than once that feeding horses with sugar cubes is not at all beneficial to a horse's, to a pony's, actually to any equine's health and wellbeing, that sugar is as addictive to and for equines as it is to and for humans and just as unhealthy (and not just because it rots teeth).

Pete says

I opened a book cabinet and found this book I was searching for to give a young rider. (I have 6 copies)

I would think every horse lover would have this book on their shelf. It broadens knowledge of how beautiful all horses are.

Marguerite did a wonderful job.

Jaksen says

I own this book!

I went through a very brief interested-in-horses period when a kid. My cousins, who lived across the street

from me, owned horses, rode them, went to shows, etc., but I was just a bystander. I was a bit older than them and never got to own a horse. But...

In my backyard, which bordered on a huge pasture owned by a neighbor, there was always a horse. A Palomino, which the owner claimed was also an Arabian. Gorgeous big horse. We'd pat him, feed him, talk to him; he was quite intelligent and always came to the stone wall when we called him. His name was Saundy.

Back to the book, I read this book a dozen times! (Or more.) And as a result know the names, origins, etc., of many common horse breeds. (And some not so common, I guess.) I loved seeing this book in a list of a Goodreads member's favorites. One of mine, too!

Sonja Johnson says

This was a book in my room at my grandmother's house - I think it technically belonged to my aunt, but I enjoyed reading it on every rainy Saturday afternoon. Being a horse-crazy little girl, it was wonderful just from the pictures, but as I got older and read more proficiently the information was great as well. It might not be "up to date" for the new century, but the illustrations are timeless and lovely and the way the facts about each breed are presented is actually entertaining.

Bonnie says

I picked up this childhood favorite on a recent trip in the Pacific Northwest. This is one of Henry's non-fiction books, a collection of essays about various breeds of horses: light breeds, drafters, and ponies alike. I remember checking it out of the library often as a child. I'm sure at one point I learned something from it, but I believe the main reason I was drawn back to it again and again was Wesley Dennis's beautiful illustrations. A full-page color illustration for each chapter/breed and little pen and ink drawings filling every margin of every page. And what a delight, something I had forgotten, was that one of the chapters was a story from Dennis's own childhood!

Sarah TheAromaofBooks says

4.5/5

I really do love this book. As a kid, it was one of my favorite books from the library - I would check it out all the time, and spend hours pouring over it, studying all of Wesley Dennis's perfect, perfect illustrations.

As an adult, rereading my own battered copy, I still love this book, love the way that Henry doesn't just say, "here is this breed of horse; it originated in this country; it's pretty cool," but instead takes her readers on a journey with each entry, a story to pull you into what really makes this particular breed special. It's a great place to start, a fantastic introduction to the world of horses.

I was surprised at how certain entries did feel dated - even back in the 50's, many farms still had draft horses in use, which Henry mentions - not really true now. But in some ways that just adds to the book's overall

charm.

Like I said, the illustrations by Wesley Dennis cannot be beat, and it's worth picking up this book just to look at them. He was an amazing artist.

While this book isn't one that goes into a lot of detail, it's a great introduction to various horse breeds, and a wonderful book for the young horse lover in your life.

Stacy says

I remember looking through this book hundreds of times as a child. To this day, I think the illustrations are beautiful.

Anita says

Wonderful stories of real horses are included in the brief chapters on several varieties of these animals. The illustrations are beautiful. The book is written at a level for children, but there is plenty for adults as well. Very, very enjoyable read for those who love animals. The author is obviously one of those people. She's written a flock of books about horses and other animals as well.

Rena Sherwood says

Way back in the age of the dinosaurs, I owned a substantial horse book collection (mostly gone now.) This was one of my most-read books. I used to take it out the library constantly until I finally got hold of a used copy when I was college-age or thereabouts. I managed to read it several times in the years I had it, even when I had other books sitting around unread. It's an old friend.

So perhaps my five stars for it is not entirely an objective look at the prose style (cute), information offered (pales in comparison to other non-fiction horse books) or even the artwork (stunning). Perhaps it's for the feelings it would stir in me whenever I read it, flipped through just to see the illustrations or even just looked at the cover. One day I may buy a replacement for my old buddy.

Nanci says

Great horse book for kids

Loraine says

Four gold stars for a nostalgic trip down memory lane. *Album of Horses* was published in 1951, when I was a youngster. I was given the book, and read it over and over again. Of course, I loved horses, like most

youngsters back then--especially girls. What I enjoyed this time around, close to 60 years later, is the understanding the artist and the author had about horses, the people who worked with them, trained them, handled them--it's as if I looked through a snapshot of a time when many children would still understand what a workhorse was, because all farms had not been fully mechanized. I once again enjoyed immensely the illustrations done by Wesley Dennis.

Wendy says

A nice little treasure that any horse-loving boy or girl will love. The illustrations are pretty and the text is informative while still being engaging.
