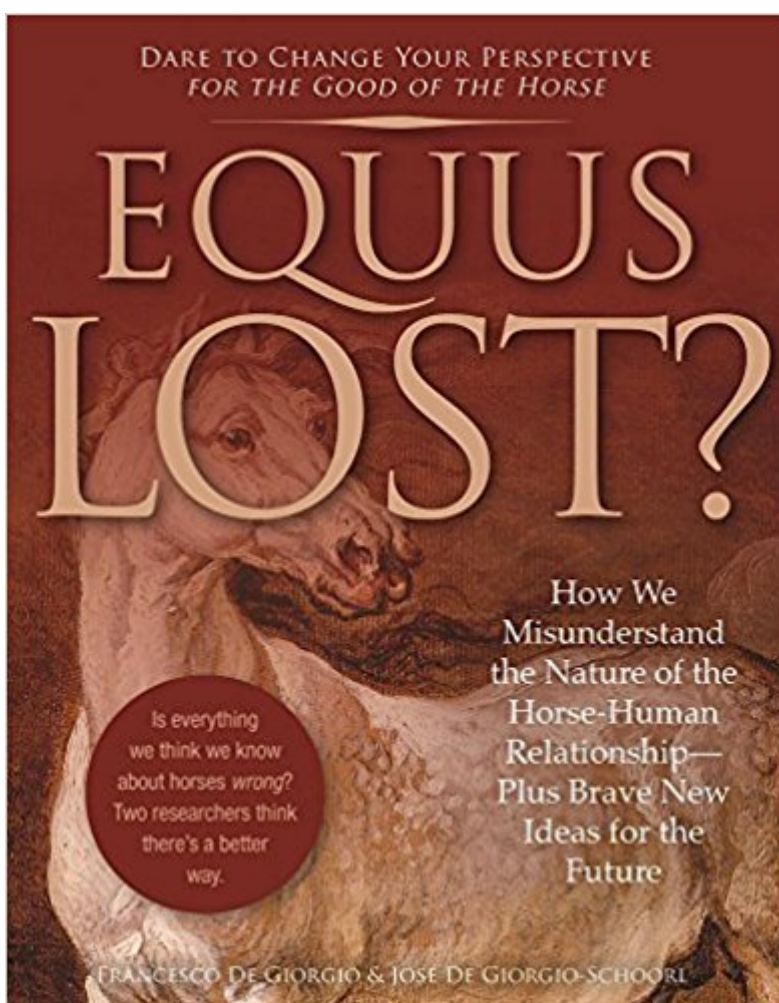


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Equus Lost?: How We Misunderstand The Nature Of The Horse-Human Relationship--Plus Brave New Ideas For The Future



Synopsis

In the 1980s, the world of riding, training, and competing with horses took a major turn with the spread of natural horsemanship, which at its most basic foundation rejects the use of abusive techniques and relies on methods derived from understanding the dynamics of free-roaming horse herds. Since then, equestrians across disciplines have incorporated elements of natural horsemanship into their work. But despite what was certainly an advancement in human-equine interaction that has improved the lives of many horses, Italian animal behaviorists Francesco de Giorgio and JosÃ© de Giorgio-Schoorl dare to now ask, What if much of what we think we know about horses is, in fact, wrong? What if the premise of herd hierarchy is a myth? What if “conditioning” the horse—s behavior in the ways we—ve grown accustomed is undercutting his potential for development? What if there is another—better—level of partnership to which we can aspire? Their provocative book takes us into a dimension where we shed our assumptions of leadership, dominance, and control, convincingly showing a way forward that acknowledges that a horse, when allowed, is driven by his own inner motivation to explore and understand the world around him, including his relationship with humans.

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Customer Reviews

He is the founder, developer, and facilitator at Learning Animals, a study center for ethology and zooanthropology, where he focuses principally on the study of animal-human interaction, ethics, animal personal growth, and rehabilitation. Much sought-after as both a speaker and lecturer,

Francesco presents regularly on the topic of cognitive ethology in the animal-human relationship. Francesco's partner in both life and work, Dutch-born De Giorgio-Schoorl personifies the bridge between equine perception and human understanding. She is a renowned proponent of the zooanthropological approach. She has presented to conferences and symposia throughout Europe.

Fabulous book! A must read for everyone who cares about horses. This will truly inspire you to 'think like a horse'. It explains life and 'training' from a horse's perspective.

The only other review of this book to date gave it one star. I wonder if we read the same book! I couldn't put it down and read it in one day. This is a ground breaking and important book which challenges our current way of viewing horses and offers us an insight into a new way to work with them and be in relationship with them. For me, the only way to be with a horse is as 2 species coming together co-operatively and in my experience with my own horses it works so much better than traditional ways and methods. We don't have 'methods' to be with another human, so why do we make horsemanship so complicated and hierarchical? This book offers a fresh paradigm and is long overdue in this age. .

“Equus Lost? How We Misunderstand the Nature of the Horse-Human Relationship - Plus Brave New Ideas for the Future” is a big breaking point in the way we engage with horses, but more generally, with animality at all. I read it in the middle of my personal learning path on approaching the relationship with animals of the Animal Sanctuary where I'm working as a volunteer. I was in then in the position of having to deal in some way with the horses (and donkeys, and dogs too) but I was unsatisfied with how I was setting my relationship with some of them. I bought this book expecting some sort of manual, perhaps less formal than usual, but still similar to a "method". But "Equus Lost?" is neither a manual nor a method, for the simple fact that actually, outside of logic of behaviourism, there's no need for manual, codified rules and "tricks" in the approach to the Other! In this book you'll find not even an approach, but a new, deconstructive (and exciting!) point of view on how to recover our own animality and preserve the animality of the horses and the other non human animals with whom we relate. “Equus Lost?” is the beginning of a journey that will take you away from training tricks, away from the animal opportunistically considered as a tool in human hands, toward the discovery of the knowledge for the pleasure of knowing, of intrinsic motivations that are the basis of a life full and

rich, at the basis of solid social relationships in which each singularity remains free to express itself and develop its own experience into the world, building its own ethics. Francesco e JosÃ© De Giorgio placed themselves in a position at the vanguard of anti-specism and post-humanism ethics values, as part of the cognitive constructivist philosophy.

A book out of schemes, it inspires the reader to consider a different point of view about the relationship with horses and other animals going out of the classic training paradigms and not only. Like a professional of this field for many years, I have been able to verify that this model is possible to apply both in the co-existence with the Non Human Animals living with me, but also in my job as facilitator of canine lives. After some academic studies, I have followed the Learning Animals study program, and I can affirm without doubt that are the more complete and deepened studies that I have never known, continually updated and with innovative contains. The service that I'm now providing for my animal clients has been completely revolutionized, improving quality of life for animals, also human animals. I conclude suggesting to read "Equus Lost?" and let inspire to look beyond what you have known until now.

Also very disappointed like some other reviewers. A lot of big scientifically worded psycho-babble & no practical horsemen advice. The whole book could be summed up in one sentence: try to have a soul-connection with your horse (which most horse-lovers strive for anyway.) Not worth reading or paying for.

Equus lost is an indispensable book for those willing to leave behind the old outdated methods and are determined to move forward and progress in understanding the genuine relationship with the animal. This is a book dedicated to those for whom, respect and preservation of the cognitive skills of the animal, its otherness and its animality are concepts of primary importance. For those who are determined to question themselves, to change their state of mind, to shake up the old paradigms. For those who put at the center of their concerns, and as main values: ethics, authenticity, knowledge, personal development, relationship. For those who have the courage and the freedom of mind to abandon conditioning, training, search for performance and animal use. For those willing to keep their internal compass fixed without being influenced by social pressure, old patterns and the judgment of others. Thank you to Francesco and JosÃ© De Giorgio for being precursors and for paving the way towards a better future for animals. Thanks to them for sharing their precious and huge knowledge with me during the Learning Animals courses I have attended, in

equine zooanthropology and in personal development with horses. Thank you for allowing me to get into a real relationship with my 5 horses at Muringa Farm in Kenya, but also with the other 60 animals of all kind of my farm. Through this approach, they were able to recover their cognitive abilities when they had lost them due to conditioning, dressage and sometimes human violence against them. They can now express their true nature, their own intent, their choices and their genuine interest in connecting with the human being and sharing experiences with him without constraint, without punishment or reward, by experiencing pleasure and joy of living.

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