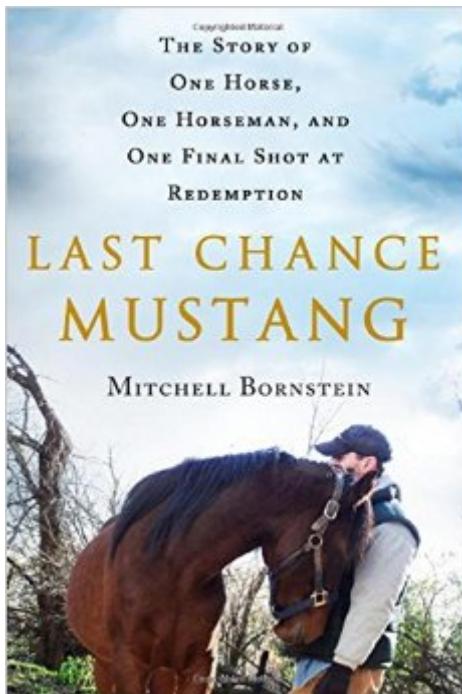


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Last Chance Mustang: The Story Of One Horse, One Horseman, And One Final Shot At Redemption



Synopsis

Last Chance Mustang is the story of Samson, a formerly free-roaming, still wild-at-heart American mustang that was plucked from his mountainous Nevada home and thrown into the domestic horse world where he was brutalized and victimized. After years of abuse, Samson had evolved into a hateful and hated, maladjusted beast until the day he found his way to a rural Illinois farm, an ill-equipped owner, and one last chance. Mitch Bornstein's task was to tame the violent beast whose best defense had become offense. He had twenty years of experience fixing unfixable horses, but Samson would be his greatest challenge. Through the pair's many struggles and countless battles, Samson would teach Mitch about the true power of hope, friendship, redemption and the inspiring mettle of the forever wild and free American mustang. Last Chance Mustang explains Samson's violent and antisocial behavior while addressing the remedial techniques employed to remedy these issues. The art of working with damaged horses is demystified. Though his story is sad, the reader is asked to respect Samson •not pity him. He has good and bad days, and he has a dark side. Like all of us, Samson is far from perfect. And his saga will move the reader to both tears and laughter. Part history lesson, part training manual, and part animal narrative, Samson's is a story that all readers will be able to relate to: a story of survival, of trust, and ultimately, finding love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since I've trained and retrained "difficult" horses for some 45 years, I expected to love Last Chance Mustang, but the book troubles me. I expected Bornstein's history of America's free horses to trouble me because the record itself is horrific, but I hadn't expected to be troubled by the

story of Bornstein and Samson, the BLM horse. Bornstein is obviously experienced and intelligent, but despite his good explanations, I still wonder why he took on this particular horse. Why attempt major repairs of a tortured 12 year old gelding? While some healing of the horse was possible, why not sanctuary for Samson? Bornstein recognized the severity, especially the PTSD. Yet he chose to work with Samson. Then why didn't he address the PTSD more directly? Did he modify his methods because of the torture? More troubling yet was the owner. An inexperienced and overwhelmed owner with dangerously inadequate facilities equals major red flags. What motivated Bornstein here? Ego? (Working for free suggests that. I tend to work for free.) Why didn't he offer to help her relocate Samson for the safety of all involved? Why didn't he offer to buy the horse? What happened to the horse after the book ends? I'm troubled when I finish a book with more questions than answers. Then there's the speed at which he works. Some of his setbacks suggest a need to slow down. Then there's this line: "I was left with no option but to tie Samson to an old, rusted, ramshackle iron farm gate . . ." (214). NO OPTION?! A trainer ALWAYS has other options. Not continuing a task until a safe option exists is one of them. He knew that too. Why does he say he had no option? Why was he rushing a horse as damaged as Samson? WHY? As crucial as speed are Bornstein's training strategies.

I just finished your book and would like to tell you what a moving experience it was for me, as a horse advocate, to see the understanding with which you approached this damaged life and it brought tears to my eyes. Your entire book is a cry for the understanding of horses, both wild and domestic. It stands as an indictment of the malfeasance and corruption within the BLM, the Department of the Interior and horse world in general. But more importantly, the magnificence of our Children of the Wind shines out so brightly. Your history of the horse and your pointing out that each and every horse on the face of this planet today carry not only the blood lines of the Dawn Horse, originating right here in North America, but that horses today carry the seeds of the buffalo chaser and warrior horses and the intelligence, adaptability, endurance and strength of the American Mustang as well. Each horse today is a miracle based on the glacial period which may well have wiped out our horses in this hemisphere 10,000 years ago (although I am not entirely convinced that they were). We should be preserving and protecting them as no animal in the history of man is more responsible for the advancement of man as a conqueror and no animal had more to do with the advancement of civilization. And we thank them how by sending them to brutal slaughter at the end of terrifying transport in trucks, trains, planes and ships, to foreign soil where their flesh is rendered by the pound in a brutal and painful death.

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