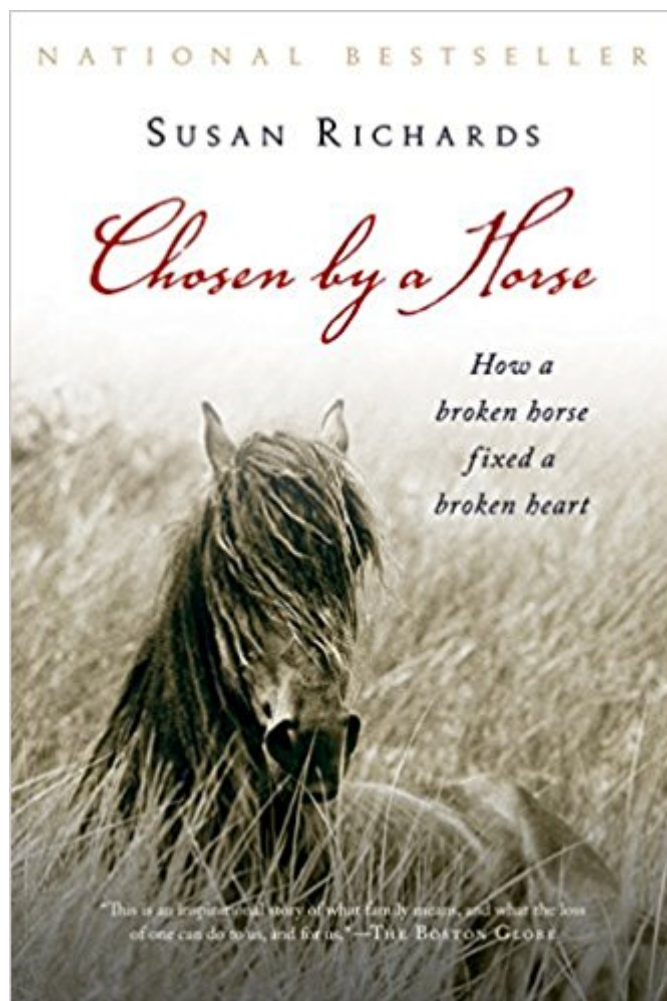




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Chosen By A Horse



Synopsis

The horse Susan Richards chose for rescue wouldn't be corralled into her waiting trailer. Instead Lay Me Down, a former racehorse with a foal close on her heels, walked right up that ramp and into Susan's life. This gentle creature—malnourished, plagued by pneumonia and an eye infection—had endured a rough road, but somehow her heart was still open and generous. It seemed fated that she would come into Susan's paddock and teach her how to embrace the joys of life despite the dangers of living. An elegant and often heartbreaking tale filled with animal characters as complicated and lively as their human counterparts, this is an inspiring story of courage and hope and the ways in which all love—even an animal's—has the power to heal.

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Customer Reviews

The horse was Lay Me Down, a tall, scrawny, sick (with pneumonia), abused standardbred mare, with a hostile foal at her heels and a wheezing sigh. The human was middle-aged, also abused (both as a child and in a bad marriage), an AA veteran and the owner of three Morgan horses in upstate New York. The Morgan mare, Georgia, was furious about the new intruder, although, Richards writes, "I blamed myself for creating a monster, a monster named Georgia. All these years of spoiling her, of never allowing anyone else to ride her, of letting her boss me around...."

Richards's first book is an engaging, honest and low-key memoir of her love affair with the sweet-natured Lay Me Down and her almost love affair with a fellow named Hank, with many digressions into horse lore as well as life lore. Charming and sensitive descriptions of fiery Georgia; the gallant, lovable old gelding, Hotshot; loyal friend and "horsewoman extraordinaire" Allie; and

daily life with animals intersperse with the trials of dating and buying underwear. The end of neither affair is happy, but this is a bracing and likable book, highly recommended for backyard horsewomen and their admirers. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The lessons of love come in many different forms. For Richards, adopting a maltreated horse impacted her life in ways she could not have foreseen. Richards adopts an emaciated mare and her foal, overriding the small voice telling her that she already has three horses to care for and a herniated disk. Her experience with her new charges proves profoundly instructive in terms of how love can foster growth of the human spirit and help in overcoming pain and loss. The abused mare, Lay Me Down, proves to be one of those rare creatures that remain gentle despite years of mistreatment, responding profoundly to the kind treatment that is part of everyday life for Richards' animals. Fascinated by the affection this animal accords a stranger, Richards notes the mare's courage and slowly begins to emulate it in her own life, opening up to a love affair and its aftermath and proving to herself that she will not run when life pushes hard against her heart. Pamela Crossland Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 needed 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. Her 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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