Equestrian Book lists

Not always are we able to ride our horse or spend time with them so in our past time why not pick up a good book, make ourselves comfortable and broaden our horizon with a good read.

I am a bookworm and love my little library of equestrian books and thought I list some of these here for you in case you are interested. I did a little research and categorised them into two:

* My current book on the coffee table
* Top read books and
* Must read books The rating of these books is based on sales statistics by sellers across the globe.

You will find I added the links for hardcover/softcover however some of these are also available as audio which I will source in the future and add to the list.

## My current horsey books

These books are currently on my coffee table and at this stage I am still studying and going through both. They are however promising to be an additional amazing resource to my already extensive library of equestrian books and videos. Keep in mind that the lists below are not my personal lists however I have read most of them and happy to recommend them.

* “Dressage in Hand” by Josepha Guillaume [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3S2PbgM) is speaking from the heart.
  + Josepha is an international horse trainer, instructor and author based in Belgium. She comes from a solid classical dressage background and is very outspoken and passionate about what she believes in. I have followed her for several years now and enjoy her posts.
* “Freestyle” by Sandra Beaulieu [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3HmCnwA) on how to develop, edit, choreograph a freestyle with some great music.
  + Sandra is a freestyle designer and dressage competitor so fully understands and creates amazing work. I usually ride with music as it calms my super analytical mind. It basically shuts it down and I am able to feel and go with the horse so music plays a huge role in my riding but I never looked at it from a theoretical perspective and this book has given me some really good pointers. Now my playlists are structured into ‘Walk’, ‘Trot’, ‘Canter’ and by BPM.

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| **Top rated equestrian books**These books cover a range of disciplines within equestrianism, from dressage to general horsemanship, and provide valuable knowledge for riders and trainers looking to deepen their understanding of horse training and communication. | | |
| Rank | Book title and short description | Hardcover/Softcover |
| 1 | "The Complete Training of Horse and Rider" by Alois Podhajsky:  Authored by the director of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, this book is a classic guide to classical horsemanship, covering training techniques and the development of the horse and rider partnership.  *Gaby’s comments: A book that one reaches out to as one progresses through the whole journey.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/47GAfdT) |
| 2 | Dressage Principles Illuminated" by Charles de Kunffy:  Charles de Kunffy, a respected figure in the dressage world, offers insights into the principles of classical dressage, providing valuable guidance for riders at all levels.  *Gaby’s comments: A book that one reaches out to as one progresses through the whole journey.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3vJM31I) |
| 3 | Horse Training In-Hand: A Modern Guide to Working from the Ground" by Ellen Schuthof-Lesmeister:  This book focuses on in-hand training techniques, helping riders develop a deeper connection with their horses and improve communication through groundwork. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/42nRfot) |
| 4 | The Athletic Development of the Dressage Horse: Manege Patterns" by Charles de Kunffy:  Another notable work by de Kunffy, this book explores the use of manege patterns to enhance the athletic development of the dressage horse. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3U8IfBt) |
| 5 | The Rider's Balance: Understanding the Weight Aids in Pictures" by Sylvia Loch:  Sylvia Loch delves into the rider's balance and the importance of understanding and applying correct weight aids for effective communication with the horse. | [Amazone](The%20Rider's%20Balance:%20Understanding%20the%20Weight%20Aids%20in%20Pictures%22%20by%20Sylvia%20Loch) |
| 6 | "Reflections on Equestrian Art" by Nuno Oliveira:  Nuno Oliveira, a revered Portuguese equestrian, shares his reflections on the art of riding, providing valuable insights into classical horsemanship.  *Gaby’s comments: A book that one reaches out to as one progresses through the whole journey.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/48FNNYB) |
| 7 | “True Horsemanship Through Feel" by Bill Dorrance and Leslie Desmond:  This book emphasizes the importance of developing feel and understanding the horse's perspective, offering a unique approach to horsemanship. *Gaby’s comments: Another great one I have is the “True Unity” by Tom Dorrance and “Think Harmony with Horses”. Both great books to read.* | [Amazon](https://amzn.to/3SoQLee) |
| 8 | “Horses never lie" by Mark Rashid:  Mark Rashid, known for his gentle and empathetic approach to horsemanship, explores the concept of lightness in riding and training.  *Gaby’s comments: Another great one I have is “Horsemanship Through Life”, A Good Horse is ever a bad color”, “Considering the Horse”. Mark Rashid is a very special horseman in my eyes and I would read any book of his.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3U8fYeg) |
| 9 | "The Principles of Riding" by German National Equestrian Federation (FN):  As mentioned earlier, this book from the FN provides a comprehensive guide to classical riding principles and serves as a valuable resource for riders and trainers. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3u0qEAY) |
| 10 | The Faraway Horses: The Adventures and Wisdom of One of America's Most Renowned Horsemen" by Buck Brannaman:  Buck Brannaman, the inspiration behind the film "The Horse Whisperer," shares his experiences and insights into horsemanship, emphasizing communication and understanding.  *Gaby’s comment: Amazing story and a must read.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/47J0K2k) |

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| **Must-read equestrian books**The following books are some must-read books that delve into various aspects of horsemanship, riding, and the fascinating world of horses. These books cover a range of topics, from training techniques to the emotional bonds between humans and horses. Whether you're a novice rider or a seasoned equestrian, these reads are sure to deepen your understanding and appreciation for the world of horses: | | |
| Rank | Book title and short description | Hardcover/Softcover |
| 1 | The Man Who Listens to Horses" by Monty Roberts:  A memoir by the renowned "horse whisperer" Monty Roberts, sharing insights into his unique approach to training horses.  *Gaby’s comments: Great book and a must read.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/48WGVpX) |
| 2 | "Seabiscuit: An American Legend" by Laura Hillenbrand:  This captivating non-fiction book tells the inspiring story of the undersized racehorse Seabiscuit and his unlikely journey to become a champion.  *Gaby’s comments: Great story of a great horse. My library is full of horse bio’s eg. Winx, Makybe Deva and of course Phar Lap.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3SrkNhq) |
| 3 | "Horse Speak: An Equine-Human Translation Guide" by Sharon Wilsie and Gretchen Vogel:  Explores the language of horses and offers practical tips on how to communicate effectively with them. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3StNbj7) |
| 4 | "Centered Riding" by Sally Swift:  A classic in equestrian literature, this book focuses on developing a balanced and effective riding position through understanding the body's influence on the horse.  *Gaby’s comment: Lovely book a must for any rider struggling with their seat.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/4b2heFN) |
| 5 | "The Horse: The Epic History of Our Noble Companion" by Wendy Williams:  An engaging exploration of the deep historical connection between humans and horses, spanning from ancient times to the present day. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3SrJzOq) |
| 6 | "Cherry Hill's Horsekeeping Almanac: The Essential Month-by-Month Guide for Everyone Who Keeps or Cares for Horses" by Cherry Hill:  A practical guide offering seasonal tips and advice on horse care, health, and training throughout the year. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3Ub1GcU) |
| 7 | "Horses Never Lie: The Heart of Passive Leadership" by Mark Rashid:  Rashid shares his experiences and wisdom on building a strong bond with horses through understanding and respect.  *Gaby’s comments above* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3tTFIAh) |
| 8 | "The Eighty-Dollar Champion: Snowman, the Horse That Inspired a Nation" by Elizabeth Letts:  Chronicles the heartwarming and inspiring story of an unlikely show jumping champion, highlighting the powerful connection between a man and his horse.  *Gaby’s comments: Most gorgeous story how a horse captured a nation. That is why we love them.* | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/47JQbvO) |
| 9 | "The Principles of Riding" by German National Equestrian Federation (FN):  A comprehensive guide to classical riding principles, providing valuable insights into horse training and rider development. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3u0qEAY) |
| 10 | "The Soul of a Horse: Life Lessons from the Herd" by Joe Camp:  An exploration of the author's experiences with horses, focusing on the lessons learned about life, love, and the deep connection between humans and horses. | [Amazone](https://amzn.to/3vJNAVw) |

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