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# H.E.R.D

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*Human Equine Relationship Development*

Written by Tamara Svencer

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*Human Equine Relationship Development*





*“This book is dedicated to my children, Elliott, Laurel, Jacob, & Richie who have taught me how to believe in my own dreams and remind me daily that dreams really do come true.”*



*Thank you too Miss Bella, may you be forever free.*

## *Table of Contents*

INTRODUCTION.....	7
1 Quiet Confidence.....	16
2 Looking for a Leader.....	36
3 Touch Me Teach Me Trust .....	74
4 Lead Me Through My Fears.....	86
5 Up, Down, Back, Forward, Side to Side.....	124
6 Ground Control.....	136
7 Ride With Me Not Against Me.....	157
8 Buying The Right Horse.....	173
9 The Promise.....	196
10 Aggression.....	208
11 Spoiled Rotten.....	232
12 What Every Horse Should Know.....	241
In Closing.....	272



## **PREFACE**

“Why would I ever want a horse to be like me? I would rather aspire to be more like the horse – honest, strong, faithful, intelligent beyond reason, and dependable beyond belief.”

*Tamara Svencer*



## INTRODUCTION

Dealing with horses makes you a better person. I thank God for my horses as they have developed my character in so many ways. They have taught me patience. They have taught me the ability to just be still and know. They have given to me the strength inside and out to deal with a lot of my own personal issues. They have undoubtedly taught me all forms of the word “balance” and for that I am eternally grateful.

Being with horses is not all about getting on their backs and riding, it is so much more than that. Some of the best times I have had with horses has been from the ground just bonding.

There is a natural attraction to the horses freedom, it's beauty, its undeniable grace that draws us towards it. It is hard to put into words exactly what the attraction to this animal is. It

has a certain quality that lets us embrace all that we wish we were.

My goal is to educate others through my own experiences. In the horse world experience is something to be coveted. The more experience you get the better of a horse-person you will be. The thing that you should keep in mind is that *all* experience is important, not just time spent in the saddle. Sometimes the time we spend grooming or just sitting watching our horses accomplishes more than an hour long ride. The true key to success here is bonding with our animal. A natural bond will form that will strengthen every aspect of our relationships with our horses.

This book is for all horse people. I wish that all newcomers could get a copy of this book before getting into the task of horse ownership and training. I think even advanced horsemen/horsewomen will benefit from understanding that the relationship one has with their horse must be built, like anything else, upon a good foundation. A solid foundation will effect how we act and react to all of the ups and downs that come along the way.

To me training is not an activity solely participated in by the horse. Training is a two way street, you must both be learning about each other for this relationship to progress. The reward of communicating with a horse in a natural way they understand will result in a horse that will surpass your expectations, as well as move you along in your own abilities. You are holding a conversation with the horse not lecturing him.

Horses are not only excellent students, they are superior teachers. My horse has taught me about patience, discipline, strength, and endurance. She has taught me to never give up and to push through the pain, heat, snow and rain not only physically but also emotionally. She has taught me what "heart" means and for this I will be ever grateful.

I ask only that you approach these pages with an open mind. My approach is one that takes control of the horse from the inside out. If you can get her to *give* you her trust and her heart there will be nothing she will not do for you.

Many people approach horses with a preconceived notion of what will happen. Some

have spent time riding horses from riding stables, or watched a lot of western movies. Horses from riding schools are often so "desensitized" to dealing with different people and situations that they are docile and stable mounts.

This is great opportunity for those that like to ride a weekend or two out of a month. It will help build up a shaky riders confidence. But please remember most horses are not like horses from riding stables. This is a really important thing to consider when purchasing your own horse. Most horses come with a few "quirks". Some are spooky, some are fearful, some bite, some kick, some run off, some rare up, some don't move at all, some even like to go in reverse.

If you have a mental picture of buying a horse, jumping on its back and riding off into the sunset at full gallop your first time out, understand that this is probably more fantasy than fact.

Before you go any farther, just drop all of your preconceived notions of what a horse can and cannot do. Forget everything you have been told and approach this animal with a totally fresh



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