



The Power of the Herd: Building Social Intelligence, Visionary Leadership, and Authentic Community through the Way of the Horse

Linda Kohanov

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Linda Kohanov is beloved for her groundbreaking articulation of “the way of the horse,” an experiential wisdom known to riders for centuries but little studied or adapted to off-horse use. Now Kohanov takes those horse-inspired insights on exceptional communication and leadership into the realms of our workplaces and relationships. Here we explore the benefits of “nonpredatory power” in developing assertiveness, fostering creativity, dealing with conflict, and heightening mind-body awareness.

In the first part of this far-reaching book, Kohanov profiles cultural innovators who employed extraordinary nonverbal leadership skills to change history, usually on horseback: Winston Churchill, George Washington, Alexander the Great, and the Buddha, among others. She also draws on the behavior of mature horse herds, as well as the herding cultures of Africa and Mongolia, to debunk theories of dominance hierarchies, challenge ingrained notions of “survival of the fittest,” and demonstrate the power of a consensual leadership in which governing roles are fluid.

Kohanov adapts these lessons into twelve powerful guiding principles we can all incorporate into our work and personal lives. Eloquent and provocative, this is horse sense for everyone who seeks to thrive in the herds we all run in — our communities, careers, families, and friendships.

The Power of the Herd: Building Social Intelligence, Visionary Leadership, and Authentic Community through the Way of the Horse Details

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Author : Linda Kohanov

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Susan Miller says

Amazing book! My head is swimming with ideas. The first part of the book is a wonderful history lesson regarding leadership in history and how horses helped to create some of histories most outstanding leaders. Herding cultures are discussed as well, giving insight into leadership from a more pacifist perspective. Then gives wonderful guiding principles on how to deal with many emotions when dealing with life's situations without sabotaging yourself into negative criticism and perpetuating the cycle of cynicism.

Monique says

I loved Linda's previous books (The Tao of Equus and Riding Between the Worlds), but was less enthralled by this one.

The first part of the book focuses fairly heavily on recounting the tales of some individuals who were apparently good leaders. Maybe it's because I'm not from the US, but I personally couldn't care less for George Washington's personal struggles and interpersonal challenges. I would've been far more interested in personal stories about clients and horses, like those featured in the previous books.

The second part offers twelve guiding principles to boost your personal and interpersonal skills. This part was interesting, but I found the strategies to be quite complex. Twelve is quite a large number to memorise and stick to, and in addition some of the protocols contain well over ten steps. For me, this is far too complex a guideline. While it will be interesting to refer back to some of these strategies when reflecting upon situations I've come across, the whole set is far too extensive and elaborate to function as a simple, everyday guide.

All in all this book was interesting to read and I've definitely picked up some good ideas, but I'd definitely recommend Linda's other books (especially Riding Between the Worlds) over this one.

Fee says

not very light reading and the first part was a tough, but the part on emotions was very good. It's a management book, not a book on horses.

Aly Stratton says

I have read all of Kohanov's books. I was surprised that this wasn't more about horses! It is, however a mind changing "Nonpredatory Approach to Social Intelligence, Leadership, and Innovation" The author did her research. Imagine if humans acted more like herd members, the world would be such a different place. There is so much to learn from the perspective of a herd...so many of the destructive human behaviors we see in everyday life throughout the world would likely be significantly diminished if we approached life more like a horse. LOVED this book.

Carol Jakubowski Delisi says

Great thoughts on leadership and emotional intelligence and how horses demonstrate and can teach us ways of interacting with others.

Jonathan Wichmann says

I think Linda Kohanov is as trailblazing as the continent-crossing equines about which she writes. In this book, she takes on a wide swath of history, and she applies her eye for leadership training techniques, post-history trauma, and extreme physical-and-emotional sensitivity.

Stephen says

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Picked this up several months ago, but just now got around to reading. Highly recommended for leaders, coaches, parents...basically anyone who interacts with others. Kohanov does a great job of weaving history, her experiences with horses as well as a leader in the business world to help the reader understand what it means to be a nonpredatory leader.
