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Black Cowboy Wild Horses: A True Story

By Julius Lester, Jerry Pinkney



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Bob Lemmons is famous for his ability to track wild horses. He rides his horse, Warrior, picks up the trail of mustangs, then runs with them day and night until they accept his presence. Bob and Warrior must then challenge the stallion for leadership of the wild herd. A victorious Bob leads the mustangs across the wide plains and for one last spectacular run before guiding them into the corral. Bob's job is done, but he dreams of galloping with Warrior forever—to where the sky and land meet. This splendid collaboration by an award-winning team captures the beauty and harshness of the frontier, a boundless arena for the struggle between freedom and survival. Based on accounts of Bob Lemmons, a former slave, *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses* has been rewritten as a picture book by Julius Lester from his story "The Man Who Was a Horse" in *Long Journey Home*, first published by Dial in 1972.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A spirit of freedom pervades the pages of this picture book, accompanied by the sound of thundering hooves and the feel of the heat and dust of the plains. Based on an incident in the life of Texas cowboy Bob Lemmons, the tale centers on his success in corralling a herd of wild mustangs with only the aid of his horse. Possessed of a legendary tracking ability, Lemmons, a former slave, follows the drove day and night, infiltrating the herd astride his black steed, Warrior. In a dramatic climax, he defeats the mustang stallion for possession of the herd. Lester and Pinkney, who previously collaborated on *John Henry* and *Sam and the Tigers*, reunite in an impressive display of teamwork, transporting readers, through the alchemy of visual and verbal imagery, to the heart of the action. The resulting sense of immediacy offers a vivid taste of the cowboy life, whether it's hunkering down all night during a sluicing rain or riding under the wide-open skies. Lester studs his seamless prose with powerful descriptions, such as when a hawk is "suspended on cold threads of unseen winds," or the mustangs sweep toward the corral as "a dark surge of flesh flashing across the plains like black lightning." The fluid brushwork of Pinkney's watercolors seem tailor-made for the flow of muscle, mane and tail of wild mustangs galloping across the prairie. Notable for the light it sheds on a fascinating slice of Americana, this book is essential for anyone interested in the Wild West. Ages 5-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4APinkney and Lester add a picture-book chapter to the lore of this nation's "true West" with the retelling of a story of a wild horse hunt by the black cowboy Bob Lemmons. He and his stallion, Warrior, wander on the prairie until they find the tracks of the animals they seek. Bob then spends days in a very slow approach to the herd. Horse and rider finally join the herd and are accepted by the wild horses, until at last Bob challenges the lead stallion for control. On Warrior's back, he fights the stallion, defeats him, and then leads the animals into captivity in the ranch corral. Throughout, both text and pictures emphasize the blending of all life. The linkages between the cowboy, the animals, and the natural world are so strong that lines separating them are blurred. Lester and Pinkney's stated aims were to recast their childhood love of cowboys and the Old West with more recent historical research into the contributions of men of color, both black and Hispanic. They have done that, and achieved something else as well: youngsters will reflect on the relationships between humans and other animals. Pinkney's pictures were never better, making it all the more unfortunate that text boxes cover some of the action. Lester's overuse of metaphor is also a drawback. Still, this book will inspire heavy-duty thinking on the part of young readers. ARuth Semrau, formerly at Lovejoy School, Allen, TX
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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 5⁺-9. One of every three cowboys who helped tame the Wild West was either Mexican or black. This is the true story of one of the latter, Bob Lemmons. In language rich with simile and metaphor, Lester's account focuses on the former slave's uncanny tracking abilities as he trails a herd of mustangs as well as his mission to tame the wild horses and lead them back to the corral. Pinkney's earth-colored gouache and watercolor paintings add the look of the Texas plains to Lester's account and capture the energy of the horses as they gallop across sweeping, double-page spreads. Lester and Pinkney's manifest love and respect for the West and cowboys of color, whose contributions have been too long overlooked, distinguish their latest collaboration. *Michael Cart*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jimmy Hicks:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a reserve your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you that Black Cowboy Wild Horses: A True Story book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Debra Sims:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be up-date about what going on or details even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era and that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what one you should start with. This Black Cowboy Wild Horses: A True Story is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Rodney Hussey:

The feeling that you get from Black Cowboy Wild Horses: A True Story is a more deep you looking the information that hide inside words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Black Cowboy Wild Horses: A True Story giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by anyone who read it because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this particular Black Cowboy Wild Horses: A True Story instantly.

Lauren Zavala:

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