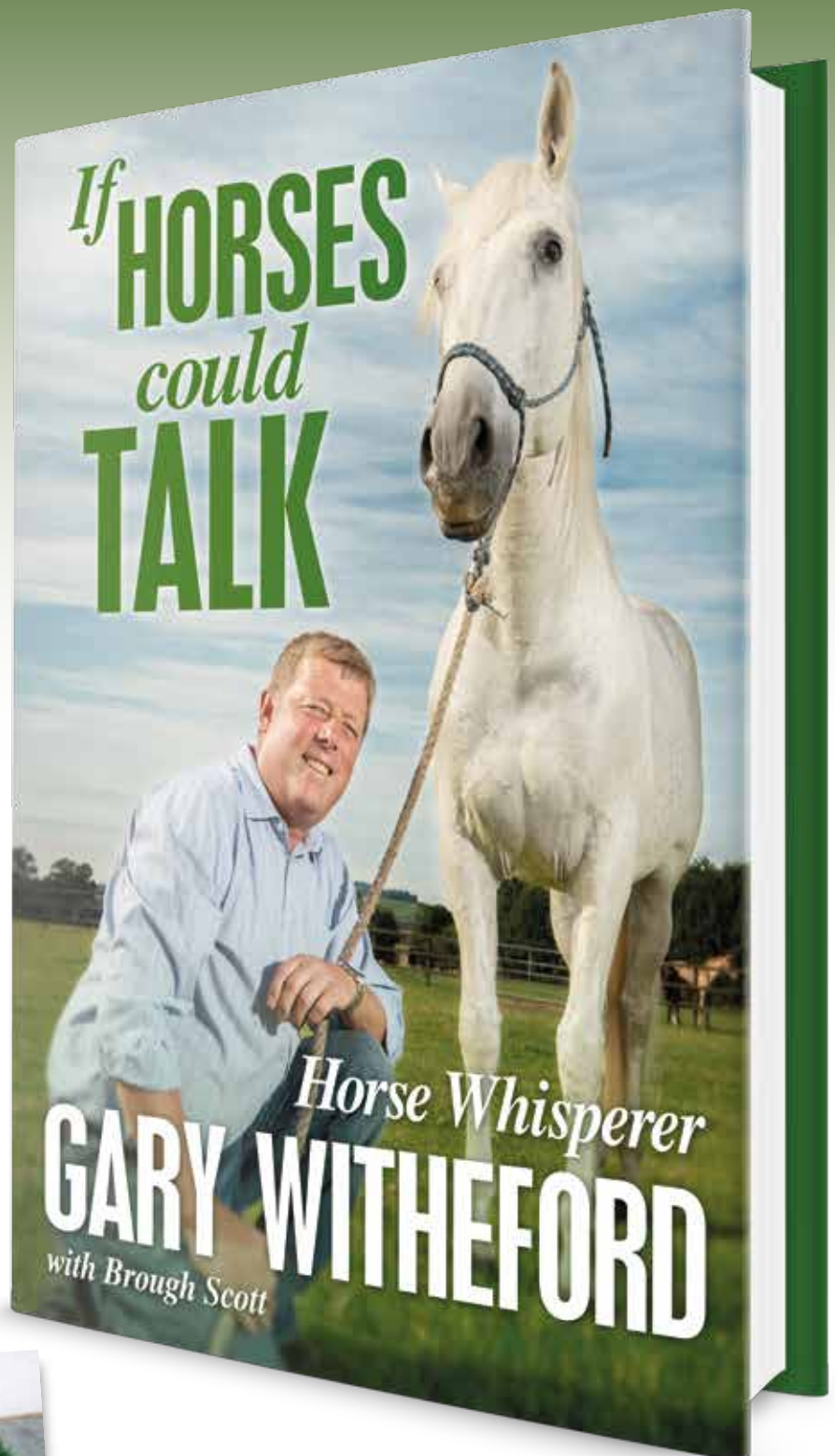


PRESS RELEASE

Published 21 Sep 2014

*“Mesmerising.
Gary’s story
cannot fail to
gallop up the
best seller list”*

JILLY COOPER



“He was the saddest horse I had ever seen. He was called Brujo and he was a big Andalusian colt tied to a concrete wall down in Spain with barbed wire round his nose and a boy alongside with his arm in a sling. They said the colt was crazy. That he had tried to kill the boy. That all he did was buck, buck, buck. That he was going to be shot for meat that evening.”

RACING POST

There has never been a man like Gary Witheford. For he saved his own life by talking to horses and has now saved many horse's lives by learning their language. *If Horses Could Talk*, published by Racing Post Books on 21st September, is his remarkable story.

This is a book that will both shock and inspire, anger and inform. In Gary's own colourful words it tells of an itinerant RAF childhood blighted by a pair of evil if outwardly god-fearing identical twins who groomed and abused him and some of his brothers. How he found sanctuary in a racing stable, how his devotion made every horse he groomed a winner and how his obsession ruined his family life and drove him to the very brink of suicide.

Salvation came in the world of 'Horse Whispering' although Gary prefers the more basic phrase 'Natural Horsemanship' which he has adapted from the work of Monty Roberts and other great practitioners from the American West. This chimed with his own rejection of the harsh systems still in common use and enabled him to educate young horses, redeem seemingly hopeless ones and become the leader of choice for top racehorses entering the starting stalls.

Guided by the authority of Brough Scott's sympathetic but objective introductions Gary details the roller coaster of his life and the personalities that have filled it. All too often the less likeable of these have been the humans and the reader as well as the author will warm to the likes of Royal Mail (the Grand National hero), Son Of A Gunner (the artful dodger), Brujo, the beloved white stallion he rescued from a Spanish abattoir and of course Mombassa, the zebra who first brought him fame.



But amongst the equine tales and the human dramas a wider message comes through. It is that animals in general and horses in particular need to be given respect and understanding as animals, not indulged as humans, with the unhappy consequences which would have often proved fatal without Gary coming to the rescue.

If Horses Could Talk is a gripping tale of revival and redemption, both serious and sad. And it should change the way we communicate with horses forever.

Brough Scott has spent more than 60 years both riding and writing about horses and has won numerous awards for his books and journalism as well as for fronting TV coverage of the Epsom Derby and other great races round the world. He believed the Witheford story needed telling. This book will show you why.

***If Horses Could Talk* by Gary Witheford is published on 21st September 2014 by Racing Post Books. It is priced £20 and available from www.racingpost.com/shop and all good bookshops.**



"She said what happened was a miracle. It wasn't. It is what we do."

If HORSES
could
TALK GARY
WITHEFORD

Gary is available for interview

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