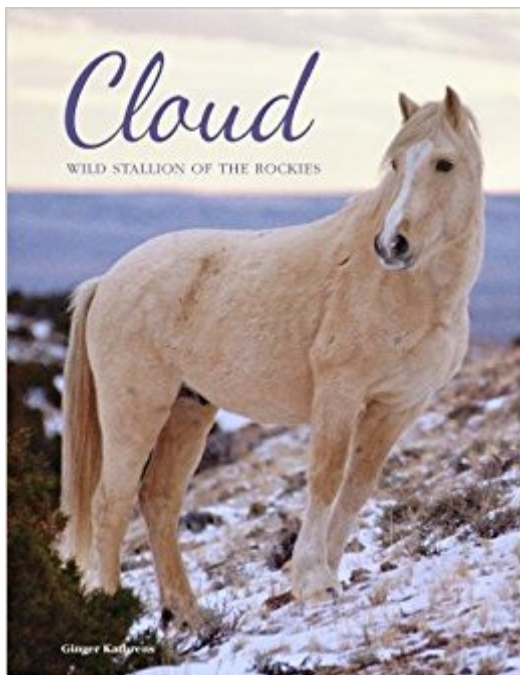


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# Cloud: Wild Stallion Of The Rockies



## Synopsis

Published as a companion volume for public television's Nature series, *Cloud: The Wild Stallion of the Rockies* is documentary filmmaker Ginger Kathrens's personal retelling of her years following the wild horse she named Cloud. Beautifully designed, the book is elaborately photographed and divided into seventeen chapters that follow the life of a wild stallion, just one of hundreds of horses that have roamed wild in the Rocky Mountains for two hundred years. The book begins with the author and filmmaker witnessing the birth of a helpless white colt, that will soon capture her heart and imagination. Each subsequent chapter documents Cloud's interaction with his mare Raven, his brother Diamond, and other colts in the wild as well as his adventures encountering dangerous predators, older stallions, and human trappers. The author follows Cloud over the course of five years, taking note of his physical and behavioral development, as he begins to take on more of a leadership role in the band of wild bachelors he's joined, to become a fighter, a survivor, and a father. Kathrens's emotional involvement in Cloud's story is palpable, such as when she tearfully watches the young stallion get captured by trappers. Due to his unusual coloration, he is set free, though the other members of his band and sisters are removed and sold. Returning to the mountains every season, the author continues to look for Cloud in the vast wild habitat, always relieved to find him still living, despite fights, predators, and encounters with trappers. She is later touched to see how Cloud, the five-year-old mare, grazes with his yearling son, the first of his new family. Kathrens's gripping observations of wild horses of the Arrowheads, their fights, struggles, and alliances, give the reader much insight into the fascinating behavior of these wild horses.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## Customer Reviews

"Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies will appeal to teenage girls everywhere who love horses and want to know everything about them. The book shows readers what life is truly like for the wild Mustang and its plight." - Moira C. Harris, Editor, Horse Illustrated This companion book to the one-hour television documentary of the same name premiering on PBS's NATURE series is based on the magical true story of a wild stallion growing up in the Rockies. Wild horses. Symbols of freedom and mystery. But not until Ginger Kathrens ventured into an isolated corner of the Rocky Mountains have we had the opportunity for such an intimate glimpse into the private lives of these magnificent animals. Their story unfolds as we follow Cloud, the remarkable light-colored horse, from fragile newborn foal to five-year-old stallion. We find out how family bands are formed, how foals learn the rules of wild horse society, how bachelors fight to try to win mares, and how stallions protect their families. The drama comes alive with Ginger's words and photographs. We come to know the horses as if they were our friends. Breathtaking scenery, rugged terrain, and unpredictable weather remind us of how harsh yet fulfilling life can be for the wild horses. Find out what happens when Cloud is captured in a government roundup and where he disappears to every winter. Can Cloud win a mare so he can start his own band and follow in the footsteps of his father, Raven ? Written and photographed by Ginger Kathrens, who is also the producer and cinematographer of the NATURE documentary of the same title, Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies is sure to be a winner with anyone who is lured by the majesty and spirit of the wild horse.

Ginger Kathrens is an Emmy-winning TV documentary producer and president of Taurus Productions, a corporation she founded in the 1970s. She has produced documentaries for the Discovery Channel and NATURE and has contributed to productions for National Geographic, the BBC, and PBS. Her documentary filmmaking trips have taken her to Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America, and all over the United States. Ginger worked on over twenty segments of the PBS half-hour series Wild America from 1987 to 1996, including the two-part program Year of the Mustang, which introduced her to the Arrowhead Mountains and Raven's band in early 1994. Since that time, Ginger has spent thousands of hours observing wild horses not only on

Cloud's home range but all over the western United States as well as on Cumberland Island off the coast of Georgia. She is a founder of the Wild Horse and Burro Freedom Alliance dedicated to the preservation of wild horses on public lands. Ginger lives in Colorado Springs with her Irish Terrier obedience dog, Ty. She also owns a ranch at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southern Colorado, which her Spanish mustangs, Flint and Sky, and her Arrowhead mustang, Trace, share with the abundant wildlife of the Rockies.

If you saw this episode of Nature, it's a great companion piece, even if you didn't, if you love horses, this is a great book to have. Beautiful photography inside. It is an excellent example of the life of America's wild horses, and the continuing threat of extermination they undergo by the very government agency that is tasked with their protection. Hopefully with the internet, more of the public will become aware of the plight of wild horses, which were supposed to be protected under the law, but that protection is not being enforced. I hope everyone who cares about horses will take some time to find out the facts of what is even now happening on the public land these various groups of Mustangs are being driven off of, in favor of welfare ranchers and mining interests.

I came across the 2nd book in the series of 'Cloud' quite by happenstance and got hooked on this magnificent group of Mustangs located on U.S. government land in Montana. This particular book starts with Kathryn's discovery of the little palomino colt and her photography of him and his particular herd and their changes over the next several years. I need to get book three to find out what happened to the beautiful Sitka and how decimated the herds became after government (BLM) roundups and removal of hundreds of horses from this Herd Management Area. The series is tremendously insightful as to the workings of wild horse behavior and heartbreaking to realize we are watching the dynamics of the American Wild Horse be eradicated from our collective memories by our government. Enjoy! Get involved!

Great book my granddaughter loves it!!

Wonderful

Can't put the book down ! Love it

This book is everything I imagined it would be. The big beautiful pictures and the descriptive story

makes you feel as though you are right there with Cloud and the author. You feel the anticipation of every word the author uses. A plus for any horse lover!!!!

Outstanding book by outstanding author and photographer, Ginger Kathrens. Join The Cloud Foundation. Help our wild mustangs. I have the set of three Cloud books. All of them are wonderful and informative. The photographs are beautiful.

This book was captivating written by a author whose love for the horses made it possible for all lovers of these animals to travel with her and share with her the experience of being there as she was.

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