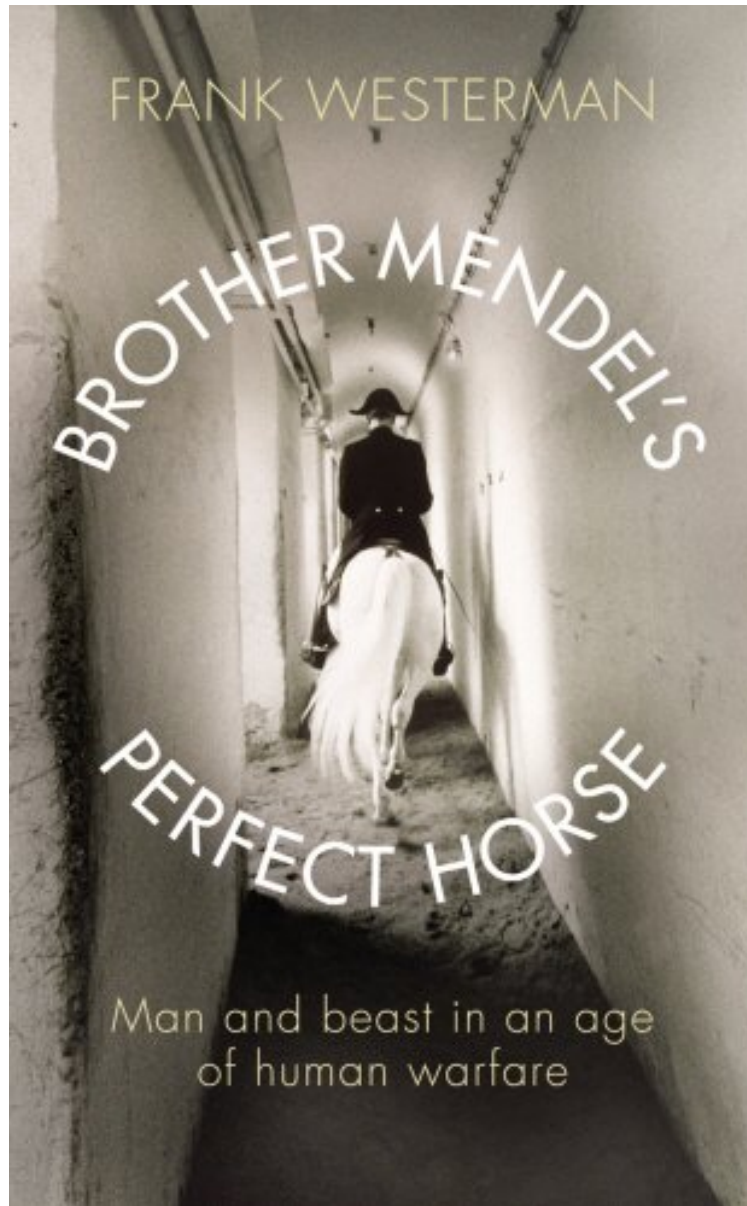


[Free] Brother Mendel's Perfect Horse: Man and Beast in an Age of Human Warfare

Brother Mendel's Perfect Horse: Man and Beast in an Age of Human Warfare

Frank Westerman

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Frank Westerman : Brother Mendel's Perfect Horse: Man and Beast in an Age of Human Warfare before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brother Mendel's Perfect Horse: Man and Beast in an Age of Human Warfare:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not what you ExpectBy CustomerThis book was excellent. As a Lipizzan breeder, it was filled with valid information from the perspective of the average German, but the in-depth review of genetic and its role in WWII was insightful and surprising.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy J. KarrExcellent transaction. Highly recommended.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative pastiche of tales where horses foreground the devastation of centuries of European warBy keetmomI am big fan of Frank Westerman's writing where he sets himself a particular quest and weaves together a story of different threads. He writes as a journalist who delves into history and science - the strength of this is that it opens up specialist areas to the general reader, but its weakness is that the larger purpose can get lost. So bundled together in this collection of tales about the breeding and training of the famous Lipizzaner horses, are detours into linked accounts of genetics, Hollywood, Nazis, secret Austrian royalists and the brutalities of civil war. The Lipizzaner was always intended as a show horse, never a war horse, but as Westerman reveals all too often these magnificent creatures have suffered at the hands of man and been dragged into and through some of the most horrific of human conflicts.

Europe's twentieth-century history told through the incredible story of a horse: the Lippizaner. 'When you touch a Lippizaner,' Frank Westerman was told as a child, 'you are touching history.' In *Brother Mendel's Perfect Horse* he explores the history of these unique creatures, an extraordinary troop of pedigree horses first bred as personal mounts for the Emperor of Austria-Hungary. Following the bloodlines of the studbook, he reconstructs the story of four generations of imperial steeds as they survive the fall of the Habsburg Empire, two world wars and the insane breeding experiments conducted under Hitler, Stalin and Ceausescu. But what begins as a fairytale becomes a chronicle of the quest for racial purity. Carrying the reader across Europe, from imperial stables and stud farms to the controversial gene labs of today, Westerman asks, if animal breeders are so good at genetic engineering, why do attempts to perfect the human strain always end in tragedy? *Brother Mendel's Perfect Horse*, a unique and engrossing fusion of history and travel writing, is a modern fable in which the pureblood horse ends up revealing man's own shortcomings.

"Westerman's account of the Lipizzaners' remarkable survival makes stirring reading. His tales of research in secret archives and encounters with wartime veterans who helped with Operation Cowboy have the subterfuge and tension of a thriller" -- Jane Shilling *Sunday Telegraph* "A most charming book" -- Allan Mallinson *The Times* "Westerman's own unique process of hybridisation, his mix of travel writing and history, yet again proves a winner. He proves himself an enquiring and thoughtful historian" -- Lucy Scholes *Independent* "When you touch a Lipizzaner, you're touching history," Westerman was once told. His elegant book offers fascinating proof" -- Carl Wilkinson *Financial Times* "A masterpiece" *De Standaard* About the Author FRANK WESTERMAN was born in 1964 and lived and worked in Moscow from 1997 to 2002 as correspondent for the leading Dutch NRC *Handelsblad* newspaper. Westerman is the author of five highly praised books. His work has been published in more than ten languages and has won many prizes.