

A Horseman

- by Per Høst-Madsen ©
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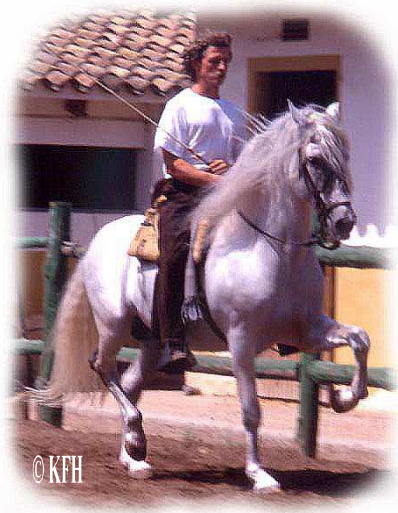
Translated from Danish by
Celia Clarke.



Problem horses wanted for the Klaus Hempfling evening in Herning.

... he is in many ways 'a horseman apart'. The mere fact that Klaus Hempfling, 48, was 29 years old before he touched his first horse makes his career in this field unique. He is not born into the horse world like most of the horse specialists we hear about, but his life has been full of horses for the past 19 years and over that time he has met thousands of horses and people.

Before the horse became his destiny, he worked with in the communications industry, as a theatre director, as a painter and at 26 years of age he was working in a school of art and design in Dortmund. During his time there he realised that the horse is the most important symbol in our culture and when he was 29 he quit his secure job and devoted his life to the horse. However, even before his first meeting with a horse, a fortune teller had read his palm and exclaimed, 'It cannot be... You are two thirds horse!'



Classical Horsemanship

His career in horses began with a practical and theoretical study of the art of classical horsemanship in Europe, and this led him on to undertake a study of wild horses in the Pyrenees. He stayed here a number of years and spent almost all his time in the company of horses, both wild and domesticated.

In 1993 he published an account of his experiences in the book *Dancing With Horses*, which became a worldwide best seller all over the world. In 2004 he followed this up with another book entitled *What Horses Reveal* and he also has a further 3 books in his native German to his name – all on the subject of the horse.

To begin working with horses at the age of 29 and to have your first book on the subject published with 35 is quite a feat. The book contains advice on how to work a horse into collection from the ground and the saddle, using a loose lunge and loose reins. His writings reflect his classical outlook on training horses based on dominance and full trust between the horse and the person.



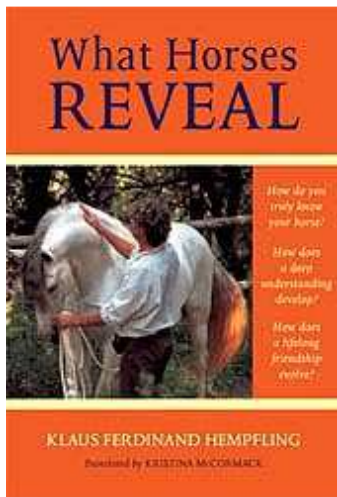
Klaus Hempfling is interesting to the horse world because he was a well educated adult before he began working with horses. This made it possible for him to approach his work critically and to make his own observations – independent of the horse world as such ...



Show Me Your Horse and I Will Tell You Who You Are!

To further the understanding of his principles, Klaus Hempfling has divided all the horses of the world (irrespective of breed or type) into 26 different groups, each with its own physical and psychological characteristics. These he has linked together

with a description of what kind of people (beginners, competition riders, ambitious competition riders and leisure riders) the various groups are suited (or rather not suited) to. This system is described in full in *What Horses Reveal*.



Klaus Hempfling is naturally gifted when the subject is horses and he is a man of firm principles. In the presentation that will take place in Herning, Klaus will be working in a small square called a *picadero*. The horses will be let into the *picadero* one by one and Klaus will characterize each one of them individually whilst detailing their specific problems – as he sees them – to the audience. Normally, during this process Klaus is able find out quite a bit about what the horse has been through in the past and

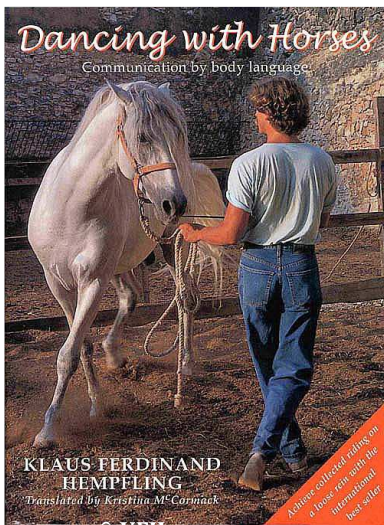
not a little about the owner of the horse or its regular trainer as well, just by looking at it. In his view is not normally the horses that have problems and need to be helped, but their owners or trainers.

Dominate or be Dominated

Using his body language and movement, Klaus Hempfling establishes contact to the horse very quickly and it then submits to him...

... if I have established contact to a horse and I then somehow send out a signal, consciously or subconsciously, that the horse perceives as a threat I can loose the connection in less than a second and then I will never be able to re-establish the newly gained trust again. It is so important that your body language is precise.'





Foreign Guests

Klaus Hempfling is much respected in professional circles. The first foreign horse whisperers have already bought tickets for this Friday night in Hall E. They probably hope to penetrate deeper into his methods...

Klaus Hempfling is very well read and a very clear eloquent speaker. He is sure to expound the classical theories of riding while taming the problem horses.

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