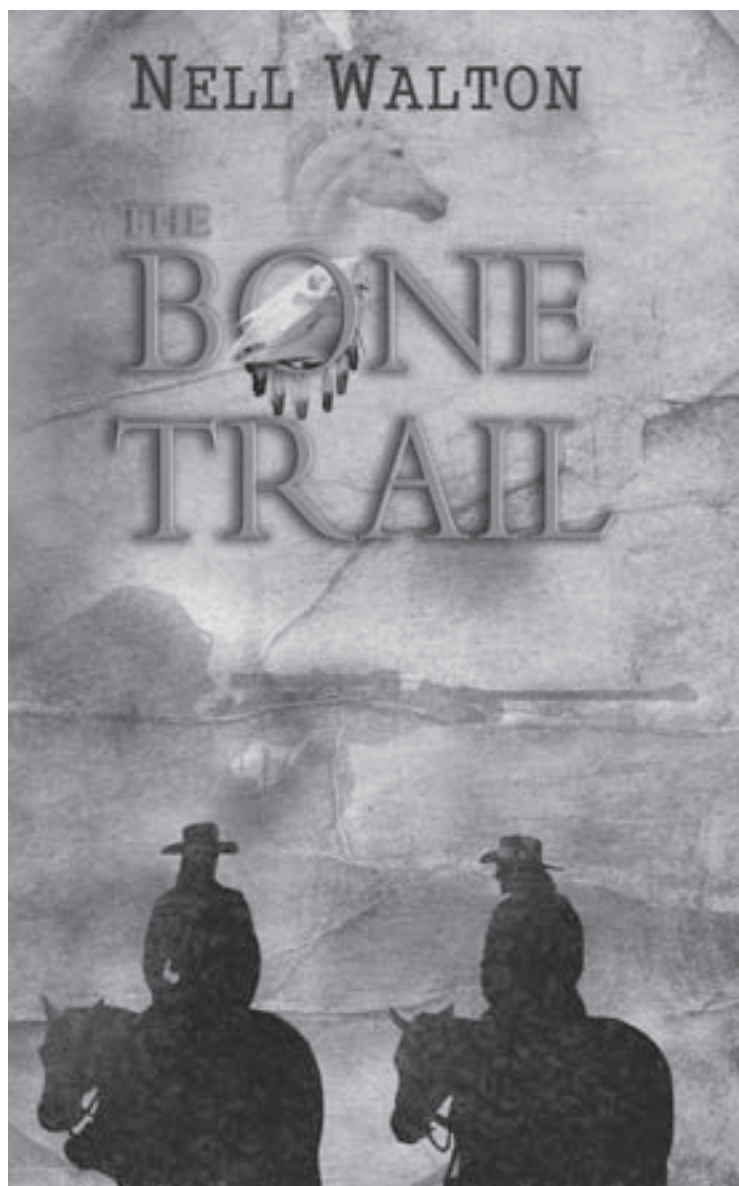


Book Barn



The Bone Trail
Nell Walton
Soft Cover, 2010, \$13.95
ISBN: 978-1-45649-90799
Available from Amazon

Reviewed by Carol M. Upton

In *The Bone Trail*, Nell Walton hooks the reader from the very start. We can feel the unrelenting heat and isolation of the desert, and the vulnerability of those who venture there. I was immediately drawn into this exciting story about the disappearance of two wild horse advocates — mystery, thriller and romance all rolled into one.

Walton's book is inspired by the true-life events with which many horse lovers are familiar — the brutal helicopter roundups of wild mustangs off U.S. public lands, hearing

of them being run to exhaustion into long-term warehousing facilities, where many face illness and death. But, there is more to this story, something far worse, and investigative journalist Kate Wyndham is determined to discover the truth, even at great personal risk.

Every single character in this novel is lively and engaging — from the cold-blooded mining security staff to the Shoshone Reservation inhabitants to the stonewalling local police. Before we know it, we are following Kate's terrifying trail, gripped with fear and sickened by the possible outcome.

This is one of those books the reader hopes will never end. Rumor has it that Walton is working on a sequel and there is no doubt readers will be lined up to get their hands on it.

Nell Walton is an avid horsewoman who owns two wild horses. She is also the founder and managing editor of the online equestrian news magazine, The AllHorses Post. She lives with her husband and four horses in East Tennessee.

"On the afternoon of the last day of Lindy Abraham's life, she stood leaning against an old Jeep Cherokee, once red, now faded to kind of a dusky umber, rapping her heel impatiently against a tire. She waited in the Nevada desert in the middle of June; it was hot, and her peach coloured cotton tank top stuck unpleasantly in the hollow between her narrow shoulders."

— Nell Walton

The Rescue of Belle and Sundance
A Miracle on Mount Renshaw
Birgit Stutz with Lawrence Scanlan
HarperCollins Canada Ltd.
Hard Cover, 2010, \$24.99
ISBN: 978-1-55468-619-3
Available from Amazon

Reviewed by Carol M. Upton

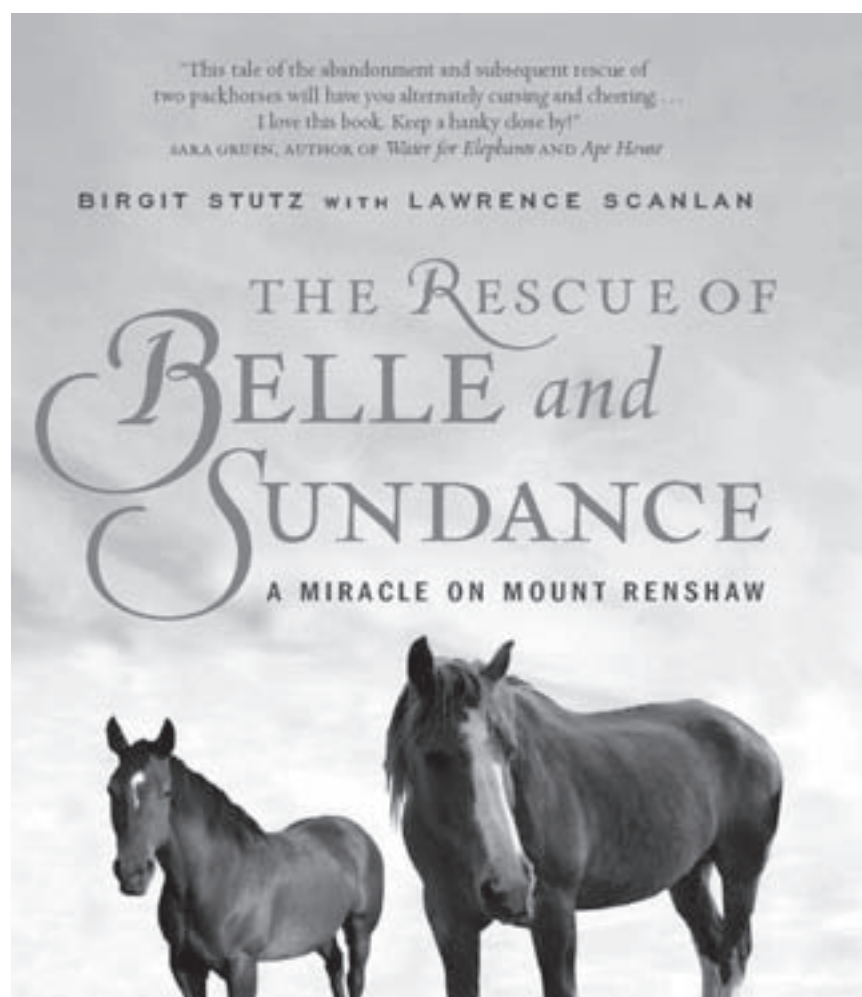
Every so often an unforgettable story captures our hearts. Many readers will recall the newspaper coverage of December 2008, when snowmobilers discovered a pair of abandoned packhorses atop B.C.'s Mount Renshaw. Belle and Sundance were starving in the bitter cold, trapped by 6-foot snowdrifts. This is their amazing story.

Birgit Stutz, a key member of the rescue team, captures the high drama involved in the situation. The people of McBride decided to save the horses rather than shoot them. But, no one had any idea that it would entail digging a large trench over the 1 km of frozen land. Meanwhile, the horses had to be cared for until the work was completed. Once they were led safely down the trench, they would still have to find the strength to walk 30 km of snowy trails in one go.

The authors have captured what many wilderness dwellers already know. Sometimes, risks must be taken even with an unknown outcome. The group who assembled to do the work was determined. At 10 p.m. two days before Christmas, the horses were freed, loaded onto trucks and driven to the safety of a warm stable. Around the world reporters descended on the small town and wanted to know how such a feat had been accomplished.

This inspiring book is a strong testament to the selfless spirit of small communities. It unfolds the way only a true story can, with that measure of real drama that entices the reader to finish it in one sitting.

Birgit Stutz is a horse trainer, riding coach and journalist who lives on Falling Star Ranch near McBride. Lawrence Scanlon, based in Ontario, is the author of nine books about horses.



"Both horses were emaciated, their backs were covered in snow and ice, and the mare was shivering. They looked pathetic, but I was pleasantly surprised — even taken aback — by how alert they were. Their eyes were clear, their heads were up and they were curious about me. They wanted to live."

— Birgit Stutz