



Where the
wild horses
Roam...

"America's wild horses are fighting their last stand. Competition for our natural resources continues to threaten our wilderness areas and wildlife species. These horses are interwoven into the very fabric of what is America. What threatens them threatens us all. I support the pioneering and innovative efforts of Return to Freedom and I urge you to do the same."

Robert Redford, Spokesperson for Return To Freedom American Wild Horse Preservation and Sanctuary www.returntofreedom.org

"My twenty-minute, tranquillity sessions had me seeming to fly over fields covered in calico fabric that morphed into brown withered crops. As the months went by, these (images) became more vivid, showing me mountains and horses covered in tiny flowered scraps of fabric. Each meditation gave me more and more bits of information, which eventually led me to the Calico Horses living by the Calico Mountains in Nevada. It was as if my meditations were guiding me to the true story that needed to be told - of wild horses no longer free...much like the children faced with the decisions brought on by parents as they try their best to move forward in life." Lorraine Turner 2013 www.calicohorses.com

While most horse lovers would happily 'plead guilty' to daydreaming about horses, the inspiration for US writer Lorraine Turner's latest book - Calico Horses and the Patchwork Trail - actually came from visions the author had while she was meditating! Lorraine, who is also the Art Director for the Library of American Comics and an artist herself, began to notice strange and unusual images during her daily meditations. But these visions of

horses and the wild mountain terrain where they roamed weren't simply figments of her imagination. The truly remarkable twist to Lorraine's story is that the horses she began to see in her mind, soon led the author on a remarkable and life-changing journey to find the wild Calico horses of Nevada.

History suggests that the first wild horses in the Calico Mountain area of Nevada were descendants of 500 Spanish Barbs, brought into the Smoke Creek Desert from San Diego in the 1860s. Other breeds introduced into the population over time, included high-quality horses of popular saddle, draft, and carriage breeds; horses that were raised by ranchers and allowed to roam on the open range for food and breeding purposes. The horses roamed over 157,000 acres of steep volcanic mountainous terrain, including elevations of up to 2500 meters at the area's highest peaks.

Later, wild horses were raised and periodically gathered in the Calico area by the Jackson family - right up until the early 1970's. The Jackson family introduced Thoroughbred studs and Pinto mares to 'upgrade' the local wild horses into a desired 'ranch horse' type. (According to the DNA test results, the "pinto" mares also included Tennessee Walker and American Saddlebreds genetics.) As a result, today's Calico Mountains horses are highly desired by adopters across the US, for both ranch work and performance riding. They are also famously a very colourful herd - featuring cremello, palomino, buckskin, perlino, and smokey black horses, as well as Medicine Hat

The wild stallion Sutter's Gold was captured from Calico Mountains and now lives at Return to Freedom, Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, California.



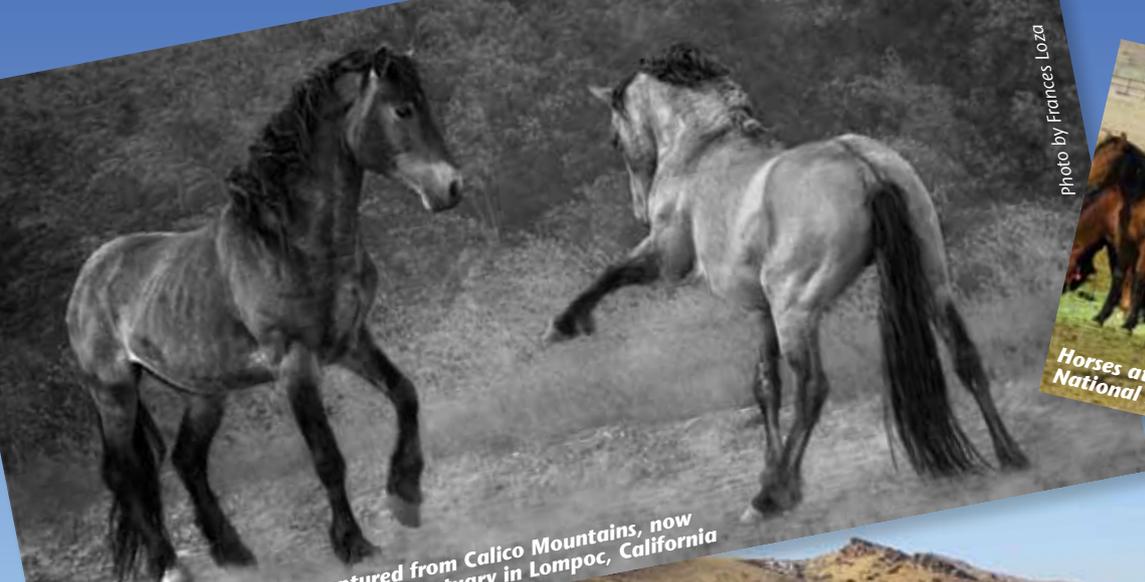


Photo by Frances Loza

Leaf and Bucky - Stallions captured from Calico Mountains, now at Return to Freedom, Wild Horse Sanctuary in Lompoc, California



Photo by Lorraine Turner

Horses at Palomino Valley National Adoption Center

Toveros, Frame, Sabino and Splashed White Overo pintos and Tobiano amongst their ranks.

To find out more about the Calico Horses' story and Lorraine's intriguing connection to these wild horses of Nevada, HW Editor Sophie Campbell recently caught up with the author for a chat.

HW: Tell us a little about your background and the story of how you came to discover and eventually write about these wild horses?

Lorraine: I live in the tropical part of the United States, where pelicans and dolphins are plentiful and wild horses simply do not exist! Strange as it seems, I learned about these endangered horses through daily meditation. I began seeing images of wild horses running over fields of calico fabric. Day by day, more visions appeared, leading me to a range of mountains in Nevada



Photo by Lorraine Turner

A holding pen at Palomino Valley National Adoption Center.

where the Calico horses roam. It soon became apparent that the horses were asking me to tell their story.

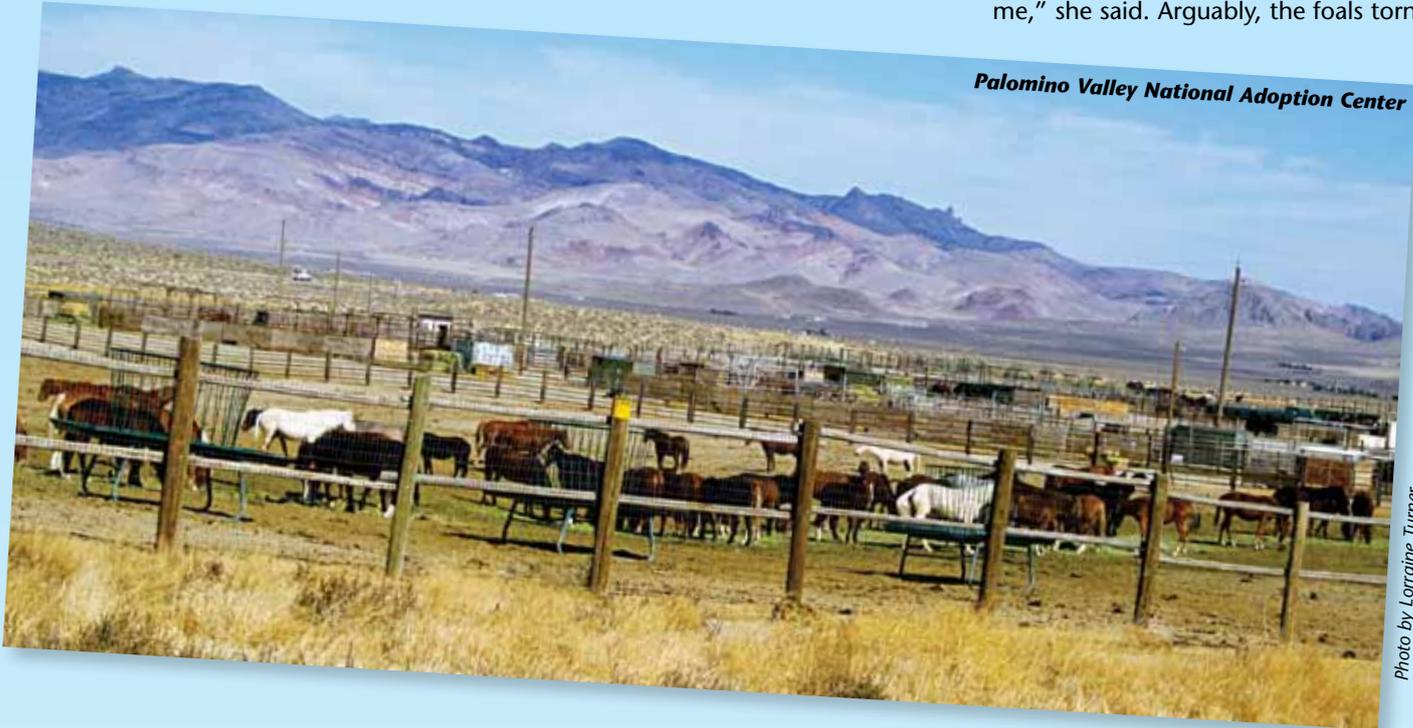
So I began researching and poring over the vast data and varying opinions regarding their survival. My inner voice guided me to a Nevada photographer, Carrol Abel, whose spectacular images reminded me of my meditations. It turned out that she is one of many volunteers working to help find permanent homes for the Calico horses.

It wasn't long before I hopped on a plane and flew 3,000 miles to

investigate their plight. I visited one of the largest holding pens in our country, witnessing and feeling the sadness of these incredible wild horses. I was also struck by the similarity of the wild horses torn from their families to what children experience during the trauma of divorce.

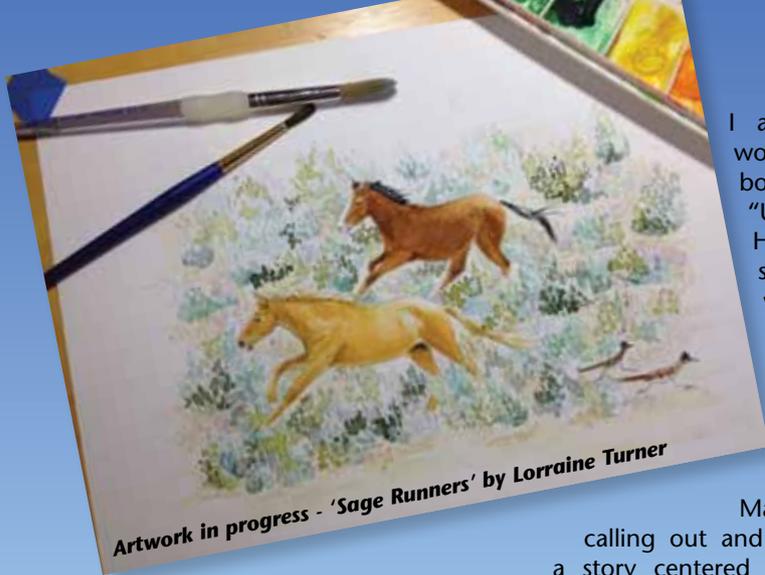
HW: What was the inspiration for the book and what sort of journey was involved in the books creation?

Lorraine: Inspiration comes from my own experiences. I remember far too well the response of my three-year-old daughter when I was trying to explain my upcoming divorce. "Nobody asked me," she said. Arguably, the foals torn



Palomino Valley National Adoption Center

Photo by Lorraine Turner



Artwork in progress - 'Sage Runners' by Lorraine Turner

from the Nevada range reflect the family dynamics surrounding a family in crisis. The two years it took to complete this work opened my heart to the wisdom of wild animals and every chapter was given to me through meditation – so the horses are the co-authors of this book.

I am also currently working on a second book in the series, "Unbridled Sea Horses," a story surrounding the wild horses of the Outer Banks of North Carolina and the threat they face by the rising tides of global warming.

Many horses are calling out and I am considering a story centered on the incredible Australian Brumbies and their struggle for survival. We will have to see if they appear in my meditations.

HW: What do you hope readers and horse lovers will take away from the Calico Horses and their story?

Lorraine: Throughout our lives we experience sudden changes - be it weather-related power outages,

relational break-ups, moving to a new community, illness, or, yes, even death. By connecting the reader to the remarkable coping skills of animals, I hope to leave them with some tools to help them face these kinds of changes.

HW: You are also teaching equine Watercolour Workshops in the US now...so what's involved with that?

Lorraine: As a young child, I had always wanted to be an artist. It was through the encouragement of others that I began to fulfill this dream. I discovered that by inspiring others, I can also help the wild horses. How? By traveling the country and teaching these child /parent Equine Watercolour Workshops – simple step-by-step art lessons. Equine rescue centers and Native American reservations are now sponsoring these events, raising funds for their organizations and giving students the gift of art along with an autographed copy of the book.

Win your very own Ebook COPY of Calico Horses and the Patchwork Trail!

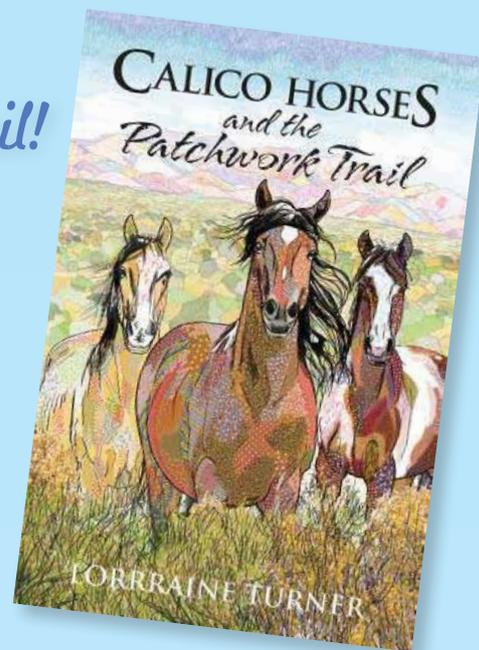
When Carrie's mom decides to uproot her from their familiar Jersey Shore surroundings to the dusty deserts of Nevada, the move is as prickly to Carrie as the cactus beside her new home. But something mysterious greets her when she closes her eyes each night-like a winding path; her dreams guide her to the horses of the Calico Mountains. Are her developing psychic abilities bringing visits from horse spirits or is her troubled mind playing tricks on her? Her new friend Milla has nightmares of her own-she's the daughter of a government official known as "The Horse Killer."

How can a few children make a difference to the plight of the foals snatched from their homes without warning? Like the tiny patches of cloth that adorn a calico

quilt, the clues draw them all together. Follow the Calico Horses as they lead us down the trail of adversity to the peaceful pastures found by helping one another.

Thanks to Lorraine and the team at IDW publishing, we have FIVE Ebook copies of Calico Horses to give away this issue. To enter, simply email your name, address and contact phone number to comps@horsewyse.com.au by July 15th, 2014 – with HW Calico Horse Comp. in the subject heading. Winners will be announced on-line at www.horsewyse.com.au on July 31st, 2014 and in our Spring 14 issue of HW! Good luck gang!

You can find out more about Lorraine's new book and see the on-line trailer at www.calicohorses.com or buy it now at <http://www.openroadmedia.com/calico->



[horses-and-the-patchwork-trail](http://www.horses-and-the-patchwork-trail) A portion of all proceeds from Lorraine's novel will be used to help the Calico horses.



Australia's Horse Gift Store
Horse Jewellery, Horse Quilts, Horse Bags & Suitcases, Art Kits, The Trail of Painted Ponies, Breyer & Papo Horses, Engraved Glasses + more

www.fillyandco.com.au
Tel: 03 6265 8732



