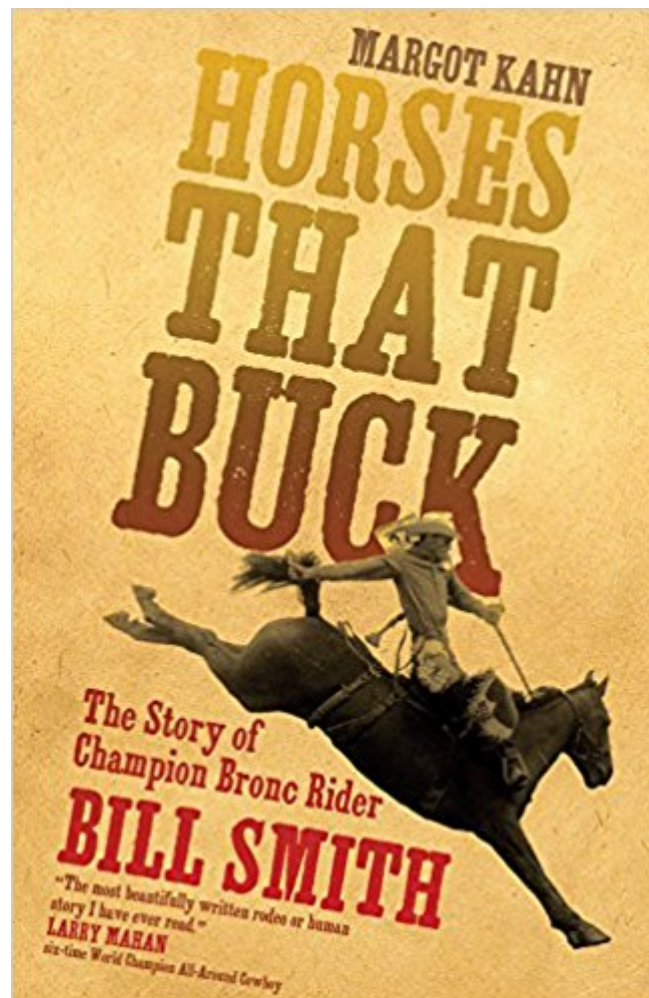




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Horses That Buck: The Story Of Champion Bronc Rider Bill Smith (Western Legacies)



Synopsis

When asked in an interview what he most liked about rodeo, three-time world champion saddle-bronc rider "Cody" Bill Smith said simply, "Horses that buck." Smith redefined the image of America's iconic cowboy. Determined as a boy to escape a miner's life in Montana, he fantasized a life in rodeo and went on to earn thirteen trips to the national finals, becoming one of the greatest of all riders. This biography puts readers in the saddle to experience the life of a champion rider in his quest for the gold buckle. Drawing on interviews with Smith and his family and friends, Margot Kahn recreates the days in the late 1960s and early 1970s when rodeo first became a major sports enterprise. She captures the realities of that world: winning enough money to get to the next competition, and competing even when in pain. She also tells how, in his career's second phase, Smith married cowgirl Carole O'Rourke and went into business raising horses, gaining notoriety for his gentle hand with animals and winning acclaim for his and Carole's Circle 7 brand. Inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 1979 and the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2000, Smith was a legend in his own time. His story is a genuine slice of rodeo life • a life of magic for those good enough to win. This book will delight rodeo and cowboy enthusiasts alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...a marvelously told biography of Bill Smith, the Montana native who became a long-running

champion rodeo bronc rider. (Kahn's) meticulous effort pays real dividends." -- The Seattle Post-Intelligencer
"In Margot Kahn's carefully rendered and lovingly told biography of Bill Smith, we find the story how a talented and determined man forges himself into a champion, both inside the arena and out. *Horses That Buck* is about family and freedom and, ultimately, how they braid themselves together in the human heart." -- Mark Spragg, author of *Where Rivers Change Direction*
"The most beautifully written rodeo or human story I have ever read." -- Larry Mahan, six-time World Champion All-Around Cowboy

Margot Kahn spent seven years attending rodeos and interviewing and riding with Bill and Carole Smith at their ranch near Thermopolis, Wyoming. She is a graduate of Bates College and Columbia University's MFA program in nonfiction, and was the recipient of the Ohioana Library Association's Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant for a promising young writer in 2005. She lives in Seattle.

A great book! I know nothing about horses or rodeos, but this book is so well written and the author puts together such an interesting biography for bronc-rider Bill Smith that I couldn't put it down. I even consider myself against rodeos because of their treatment of horses and live stock, but Ms. Kahn gives you the horse's perspective, too, and you see Bill Smith evolve in his understanding and treatment of them. His life is pretty amazing--some of his adventures are spectacular (like riding an avalanche, for example)--and I'm glad to have found this book as part of my research on something else. The book is well researched and Ms. Kahn is a sensitive, welcoming, and fun writer.

I ordered this book because I have several students who are rough stock riders. While I have yet to read the book, the student who borrowed it as soon as I brought into our classroom is loving it. He says it is authentic and even mentions people he actually knows. I will add to my review once I can pry it from his hands.

I love this book. It's a beautifully written account of riding the rodeo circuit, and a wonderful human story that I couldn't put down. I stayed up all night to read what happened next. I've given this book to many friends since reading it, whether or not they like bronc riding -- people just like the story and history. Fascinating for anyone interested in American heroes and the West!

What a fascinating history of bronc riding, rodeo, some places I have been and a place I live right now. This is both a romantic old west story and a brutally truthful tale all at once about the journey to

the pinnacle of the sport of rodeo and one of its toughest events. Along the way there is heart break, bones breaking, going broke, and winning big! There are world championships and finding true love too. That's where my cousin comes in. What a great biographical adventure.

good book, arrived in good shape

It's ok... not all that ... talk abt his life and how he messed up

Gave as Gift to a true Rodeo Man!

It was a great book and it made a good gift. I gave it to two of my friends and had it signed

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