

Cloud's Legacy: The Wild Stallion Returns

By Ginger Kathrens

Growing up in the flat lands of northwestern Ohio made me yearn for mountains, wide open spaces... and adventure. My wish came through in a big way when I started traveling around the world filming wild places and wild animals. Grand as those experiences have been, however, they cannot hold a candle to my adventure tracking the wild stallion, Cloud, in the rugged Arrowhead Mountains of southern Montana.

From the moment his mother brought him out of the forest in front of my camera, I knew something magical was happening. I named the newborn Cloud, and prayed he would live. I needn't have worried, for Cloud blossomed into a vibrant colt who could run circles around his older sisters. Right from the beginning I believed he would become a band stallion like his powerful father, Raven. "Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies," the television documentary which originally aired in 2001, covers the first five years of Cloud's exciting life.

"Cloud's Legacy: The Wild Stallion Returns" is the next chapter in the Cloud saga. Two sons dominate the story. Flint is not Cloud's son by blood but his in every other sense of the word. Bolder, is Cloud's spitting image. Dangers threaten—marauding bachelors, a government round up, killer lightning storms, lethal predators and a wildfire that roars through Cloud's mountain stronghold.

Although Cloud has been allowed to live free (because of his unusual color), many wild horses are not so lucky. Nothing is as important to a wild horse as their freedom or their family. Both are taken away when they are rounded up. Many will live

out their lives homeless and unwanted, trucked from one adoption to another. Others will be bought by well-meaning people incapable of handling a wild animal. Some will end up at slaughter.

In many cases, wild horses are being managed to dangerously low levels on our public lands by the very



Photo by: Ginger Kathrens

agency charged with protecting them simply to make room for domestic livestock. I encourage you to stand up for their right to live free. Although Cloud speaks in big, broad, dramatic ways, he cannot talk to the policy makers in Washington, D.C. That is up to us!

Please visit DDAL's Web site to find out more about this issue and to send an action letter to your representatives in Washington (visit



Photo by: Ginger Kathrens

www.ddal.org, and click on Current Campaigns).

"Cloud's Legacy" premieres Sunday night, November 23, on PBS's *Nature*. The companion book will be in stores in November. The Breyer four-model set (Cloud, his mare, sons Flint and Bolder) will also be

available in November.

Ginger Kathrens is an Emmy winning filmmaker. Her first book was Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies, winner of the Colorado Book Award for young adult readers in 2002. She is an avid trail and endurance rider and has two Spanish mustangs, Flint and Sky, in addition to her Arrowhead wild horse, Trace. 🐾