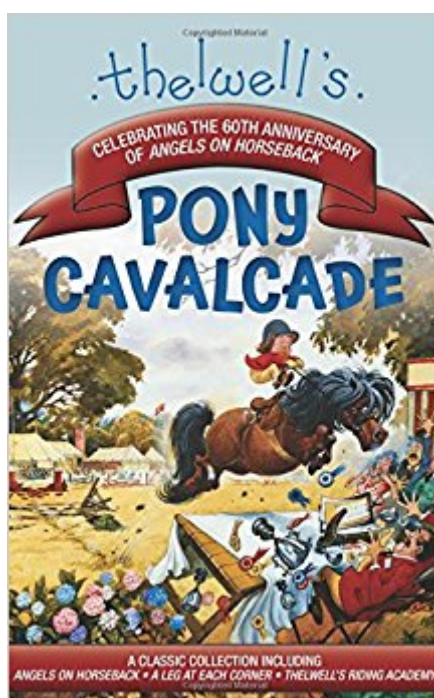


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# Thelwell's Pony Cavalcade: Angels On Horseback, A Leg In Each Corner, Riding Academy



## Synopsis

Little girls. Fat hairy ponies. Hook-nosed riding teachers, riders on backward, and horses gone madly off course. The artist Norman Thelwell published his first pony cartoon in 1953, and quite by accident, his name became synonymous with these kinds of images. "The response was instantaneous," he wrote in his autobiography. "Suddenly I had fan mail! I dreamed up some more horsey ideas and people went into raptures." The Thelwell pony soon became the most-often referenced source of horse-humor the world over. In 1957, Thelwell's first collection of pony cartoons, *Angels on Horseback*, was published, followed by *A Leg at Each Corner* in 1961, and *Riding Academy* in 1963. In this Anniversary Special Collection, readers get all three classics, featuring page after page of Thelwell's hilarious cartoons along with his often blisteringly accurate advice for survival in and around the equine herd. Whether audiences open *Pony Calvacade* out of nostalgia or curiosity, the delightful details of Thelwell's illustrations and timeless wit of his caricatures and asides are a surefire way to change a day for the better, and certain to send a new generation of fat-hairy-pony-lovers out to the barn to test the truths within.

## Book Information

Paperback: 350 pages

Publisher: Trafalgar Square Books; Anniversary ed. edition (April 17, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570768285

ISBN-13: 978-1570768286

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #96,339 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Horses > Equestrian #66 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Pets & Animal Care > Horses > Riding #121 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Cats, Dogs & Animals

## Customer Reviews

This classic will have you roaring with laughter! Without question horse lovers of every age will thoroughly enjoy this book. It'll brighten you up on even the gloomiest day! A big fat YAY on this read. CatskillHorse.org, May 2017 Norman Thelwell's illustrations and timeless wit are bound to get another generation of young riders hooked on the Thelwell pony. It

should be required reading for all children (and their parents) attending summer riding camps.

Mid-South Horse Review, May 2017

The late Norman Thelwell was a British artist whose first cartoon appeared in the satirical magazine Punch in 1952. A generation of stiff-upper-lip equestrian types grew up cackling over Thelwell's uncanny depictions of horse-mad children, fat hairy ponies with a stubborn streak, exasperated riding instructors, and weary parents. The humor and the countryside depicted in Thelwell's three classic books of equestrian cartoons—Angels on Horseback, A Leg at Each Corner, and Thelwell's Riding Academy—are British, but horse lovers everywhere related to the depictions of Thelwell's characters and their willful equines. Now all three are back in print in collected form—Thelwell's Pony Cavalcade celebrates the 60th anniversary of Angels on Horseback. The hunt caps and the baggy jodhpurs may be dated, but horses and riders haven't changed and Thelwell is as funny as ever. Buy this book and treat yourself or a horse lover in your life to some guaranteed belly laughs. USDF Connection, July/August 2017

Whether you're a longtime fanatic or just recently discovered them, Norman Thelwell's artistry of determined riders atop hairy, chubby, ponies are a classic. Now Pony Cavalcade brings pages upon pages of those adorable drawings to one place for easy viewing. This collection is as loveable as when the cartoons first took the world by storm and, of course, includes Thelwell's humorous insights to riding and horsemanship. Bottom Line: Riders young and old will love this fun collection of Thelwell's famous ponies. Equine Journal, July 2017

Norman Thelwell (3 May 1923 – 7 February 2004) was born in Birkenhead, Cheshire, on 3 May 1923. His earliest surviving drawing is a pencil self-portrait done at the age of 10, on which his teacher has written in red ink: 'V. good indeed'. He remembers always wanting to draw as a child and recalls finding drawing and painting much easier than other subjects - 'with drawing, the answer was always there in front of you - you only had to look'. His love of the countryside was fostered by childhood visits to a North Wales farm and was strengthened throughout his life. He joined the Army in 1941 and, through the years of war which followed, both in Britain and in India, he always travelled with his sketchbooks. The first cartoon he ever had reproduced was an Indian subject for the London Opinion. In 1945, at Nottingham Art School evening classes, he met fellow student Rhona whom he married in 1949. After the war, he took a degree course at Liverpool College of Art and in 1950 he started teaching design and illustration at Wolverhampton College of Art. His first cartoon for Punch was published in 1952 and led to a relationship which lasted for 25 years and over 1,500 cartoons, including 60 front covers. His first pony cartoon was published in 1953 and, by

accident, led to a lifetime of association with the image of the little girl and the fat hairy pony. As he says in his autobiography: "I was a sort of unofficial country cartoonist, doing funny drawings that involved birds, cattle, pigs and poultry. One day I did a pony drawing and it was like striking a sensitive nerve. The response was instantaneous. People telephoned the editor and asked for more. Suddenly I had fan mail. So the editor told me to do a two-page spread on ponies. I was appalled. I thought I'd already squeezed the subject dry. I looked at the white drawing block and wondered what on earth to do. In the end I dreamed up some more horsey ideas and people went into raptures." The "Thelwell pony" was born. Thelwell left teaching to take up illustration full-time in 1956 and his first book, a collection of his cartoons, *Angels on Horseback*, was published in 1957. The first book produced from cover to cover rather than collected from drawings previously published was *A Leg at Each Corner*, published in 1961. This was serialized in the *Sunday Express* and led to the development of the strip cartoon characters Penelope and Kipper. Thelwell's range as a cartoonist has gone far beyond ponies--fishing, gardening, house-hunting, motoring, sailing, dogs, cats, farming, stately homes, children and country pursuits have all been given the treatment. He was a master of sharp social comment and sheer zany humor, and the foibles of the British at work or at play were his favorite themes. He was also a serious landscape artist, painting in watercolor and oils. His 34 books have sold over 2 million copies in the UK and been translated into languages as diverse as Finnish and Japanese and his drawings have been used on many different kinds of merchandise including stationery, jigsaws, table mats, china, glass, door mats, socks and bed linen.

I didn't quite realize when I purchased this that it is a compilation of several books. I have loved Thelwell since I was a kid, but I have found the books not all that easy to come by. This one is great, but being a relatively thick book you have to really crack the binding to open it up all the way to get a good full look at the cartoons. It is also in black and white, although I suppose that is what he drew (I somehow have always thought of Thelwell in color, but I am not sure what I am remembering). His drawings are clearly done by a person that knows equine anatomy, as they are all very correct, just that the ponies all have cute, fat bellies and adorable expressions. I don't know why Thelwell isn't more universal, as I think just about any horse person would appreciate this good-hearted, family-friendly, timeless humor. Even my 2 yo daughter asks to "read" these cartoons.

The reason I give this only three stars is that the paper-bound book is too small! I have to use a magnifying glass in order to read the text. I wish there were a larger-format edition with larger print for my old eyes. Other than that, I do like the Thelwell series.

A Leg At Each Corner and Angels on Horseback have been favorites of mine since childhood (let's just say.... "Once upon a time..."). Yet, every time I scroll through them I laugh so hard tears stream down my face. While these books pertain to jumping, Thelwell also has a volume on Western that please the cowpokes among us.

Thelwell all over again! I haven't had any of the Thelwell books since I was a teenager and discovered them with my other horseback riding friend. It's sweet flashbacks that this reading gives me. Delightful flashbacks to a time of more innocence and less acquisitive longing. I could ride on the trails for a whole day and never feel the pressure of what might be waiting at home to be done. Do we ever get that innocent, that unburdened again?

love to re-read the "old stories" ! Pages of "Pony-fun" :-)

Love Thelwell. This a thick paperback with all listed in one book. Arrived on time and in new condition. Highly recommend for everyone especially horse lovers.

Took me back to childhood when my horses meant everything to me. A whole lot of laughter in this little book. Sure wish I would have kept my original boxed set.

The print quality in this book was awful. Almost impossible to see the pictures!! Really disappointing as it was bought for a niece to enjoy!

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