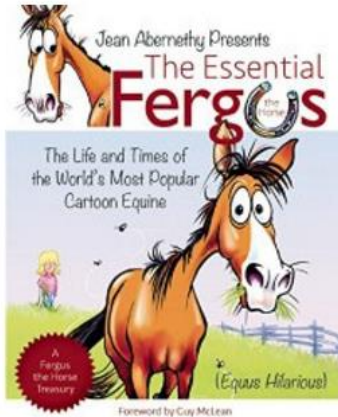


## Saddle Seeks Horse

December 2015

### *FERGUS THE HORSE CHARMS IN THE ESSENTIAL FERGUS THE HORSE*



Just as Snoopy is cool and Calvin from [Calvin and Hobbes](#) is imaginative, Fergus the Horse—artist Jean Abernethy’s endearing bay gelding—is gen-u-ine equine. And his authentically “horse” view of the world is pretty funny, hence his nickname “Equus Hilarious.” You just might want to add [The Essential Fergus](#) to your Christmas list!

#### *A LITTLE HISTORY ON FERGUS THE HORSE*

Fergus the cartoon horse is a comic strip and Facebook celebrity. He’s garnered over [300,000 Facebook likes!](#) (That’s more likes than American Pharoah, by the way.)

[The Essential Fergus](#) is a delightful 122-page compilation of Fergus cartoon strips and stories of the evolution of the artist. Part One describes Jean’s artist journey from a young girl who couldn’t find enough horse books in the library to satisfy her passion, to her years at art school in Ontario, Canada where she freelanced her equine illustrations. (I especially enjoyed seeing the horse drawings from her teenage years. I could totally relate, but my drawings weren’t nearly as realistic and beautiful.) Part One also includes the story tracing the early days of the famous whiskery-muzzled bay. Part Two is an extravaganza of Fergus comics, most of them are in color.

Abernethy’s “Funny Little Horse with Big Googley Eyes” was born in the late 1990s and appeared in various horse-related outlets ranging from Monty Roberts’ quarterly magazine *Join Up Journal* to *Equus Caballus* magazine. Fergus began charming mainstream audiences in 2004 with his debut as a weekly comic strip in the *Ocala Star Banner*.

Fergus, according to Abernethy, embodies “the quintessential ‘average’ horse: he eats, he spooks, and he really does not understand human logic at all.” He is ridden both English and Western and has a posse of pals including Grace, a hairy pony; Ditto, an unusually colored Appaloosa filly; and Art, the Paint to name a few.

If you’re as horse-crazy as I am or simply enjoy clever cartoons, *The Essential Fergus* is for you.