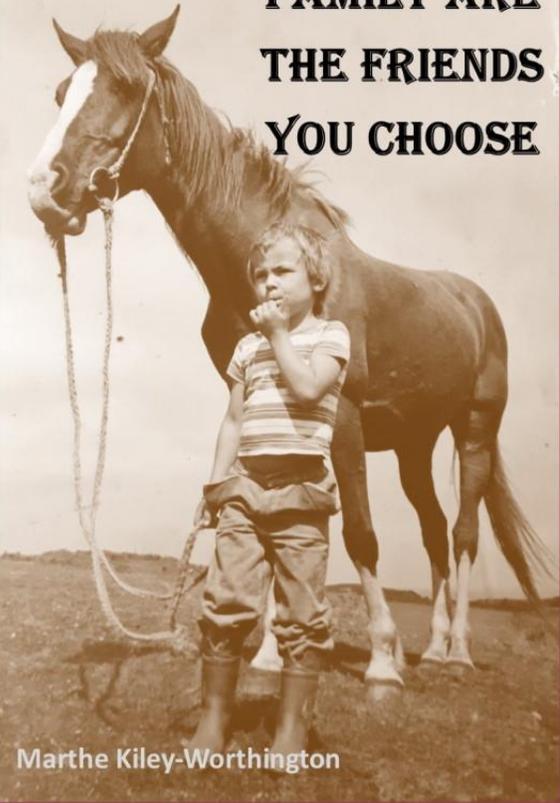


FAMILY ARE THE FRIENDS YOU CHOOSE



Marthe Kiley-Worthington

Family are the Friends you Choose tells of a life lived among four- and two-legged mammals, and what we can learn from them; particularly the four-legged type. As the anthropocene advances, we desperately need to have new ideas on how to live if we are to survive. Can we learn from close association with non-human mammals who have different world views, ambitions and ways of living?

The author thinks so as she examines beliefs about animals and the environment, suggesting how we can live symbiotically with all living things. It includes radical suggestions about how we can change how we live alongside, and with, animals.

The story spans some eight decades in which thinking about other mammals has changed. It considers our relationship with others, human and non-humans, and how we use the land and produce our food, integrating food production with wildlife conservation.

At heart, it's an accessible account of a well-lived life of a human female and her experiences and scientific research. "We have a lot to do, but if we work hard to prevent further destruction of species and the environmental, and we avoid 'animal apartheid', perhaps we can do it."

About the author

Marthe Kiley-Worthington was raised on farms in the UK, Kenya and Congo by her two-legged parents and four-legged friends and mentors. As a female at that time, she had few options. She became an ecologist and ethologist, and concentrated on trying to unravel the communication of her mentors, non-human mammals both wild and domestic, through research and adventures across Africa, Europe and the UK. She studied philosophy to better understand ideas for the further development of animal welfare science. Another post-graduate degree in equine and elephant epistemology (their knowledge of the world) ensued.

Marthe became very aware of the ethical, social, political, and biological problems of modern agriculture in the 70s and thereafter devoted her life to marry the theoretical with the practical to develop human and animal relationships and produce food without these problems. This Ecological Agriculture is modeled on how the ecosystem works. She trialed and developed the tenets on five ecological farms, making mistakes while developing techniques for future farming. She has written over 100 scientific papers, and 7 books. Today, Marthe is internationally known for her work on animal welfare, ecological agriculture and understanding animal minds. In particular, how to put well thought out theories into practice, allowing for the ecological controls and conflicting interests of all.

Category: Memoir, science

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